

Afghan rebels to offer plan

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A dispute over a new leadership appeared to be brewing among the Afghan rebels, according to a U.S. official. Under Secretary of State Robert Kimmitt, who is in the capital of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Kabul, said he had met with the rebels' spokesman, Abdul Wahid, who said the rebels' leadership was in a state of flux. Kimmitt said he had met with the rebels' spokesman, Abdul Wahid, who said the rebels' leadership was in a state of flux. Kimmitt said he had met with the rebels' spokesman, Abdul Wahid, who said the rebels' leadership was in a state of flux.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الراي)

ACC premiers to meet Tuesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The heads of government of the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries will meet in Amman Tuesday to look into ways for coordinating foreign policies and reviewing developments in the region. The meeting, according to ACC Secretary General Hani Nasser, will be the first since the council's formation in 1989. The meeting will be held in Amman in the coming month. Tuesday's meeting was paved for by senior officials from the four countries at a two-day meeting in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, last week. The meeting was attended by the officials from the four countries at a two-day meeting in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, last week. The meeting was attended by the officials from the four countries at a two-day meeting in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, last week.

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Azeri rampage kills 25 in Baku

MOSCOW (Agencies) — An anti-Armenian rampage through the capital of Soviet Azerbaijan left 25 people dead, most of them Armenians, and another 20 injured, official media said Sunday. The Saturday night killings in Baku were the worst outbreak in nearly two years of Azeri-Armenian violence, the bloodiest of the ethnic conflicts that plague the Soviet Union. The rampage prompted a call in Armenia for people who possess firearms to volunteer to be flown to Azerbaijan. The mostly Christian Armenia and predominantly Muslim Azerbaijan have been locked in a feud over control of Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave of about 160,000 people who are mostly ethnic Armenians but which has been under Azeri control since 1923. Radio Moscow said the Saturday rampage began after two Azerbaijanis visited an Armenian family and demanded they leave the city. The family attacked the Azerbaijanis with an axe, killing one and seriously injuring the other, the report said. News of the killing was announced at a Saturday night rally attended by about 150,000 people, the radio said. "Calls were made at the rally to drive the Armenians out of the city," the radio's correspondent reported from the Caspian Sea port city. "When the rally ended the crowd began to disperse," Radio

Moscow said in its Russian-language broadcast. "Among the crowd, anti-Armenian slogans were shouted, and then the most terrible thing of all began — the pogrom." TASS reported that the situation in a number of districts had "gone out of control." "Gangs of hoodlums have been committing atrocities. Preliminary information puts the number of dead at 25 in 50 separate pogroms," the agency said. TASS reported that several Lyschinsk-76 transport planes carrying troops from the Interior Ministry's Dzerzhinsky Division had flown into Baku from Moscow early Sunday to try to restore order. Eduard Shakhmurov, an editor at the official Armenian news agency Armenpress, told Reuters by telephone from the republic's capital, Yerevan, that 30 people had been killed in the Baku riots, all Armenians. "Three were burned alive after petrol was poured over them. One of them was a pregnant woman," he said. Radio said 53 apartments were wrecked in the rampage. The situation in the city 2,000 kilometres southeast of Moscow remains tense, its Baku correspondent said. "Operational bulletins constantly contain reports about hostilities being taken, both Armenians and Azerbaijanis, about exchanges of fire, about tragic events," said the correspondent. "The republic is on the boil. Hearts are bleeding and the mili-

ta is trying to do everything it can." He said he had been told that reinforcements were on the way. "But what guarantee is there that the frightful thing which took place yesterday evening and last night will not be repeated?" he asked. "Serious, serious measures are needed." Azerbaijani authorities reached Sunday by telephone from Moscow confirmed there had been people killed in unrest the night before, but claimed the situation was under control. A duty officer at the Azerbaijani Communist Party's Central Committee, Kamal Abdullayev, said the number of victims was not clear. He repeated charges made at the Saturday rally that Armenians in helicopters were firing on Azerbaijani villages in a district near Nagorno-Karabakh. The duty officer at the republic's Interior Ministry, which is responsible for law enforcement, said Baku "was and is normal." He hung up before he could be asked his name. Azerbaijani People's Front spokesman Khalid Mukhtarov denied knowing of any rioting. When told that Pravda, the Communist Party daily, had printed the TASS dispatch about the hoodlums' rampage, he charged that the newspaper always printed lies about Azerbaijan. In Nagorno-Karabakh itself, violence also continues, with the special Interior Ministry troops who have been sent in to preserve order now becoming targets for attack, TASS said.



A demonstrator holds an anti-Soviet poster as another shouts slogans through a megaphone during the night this week of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to Lithuania.

Gazan dies from Israeli gunfire

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies) — A Palestinian died Sunday three weeks after troops shot him in the neck, his son told Reuters. Marwan Al Arekawi said troops in Rafah refugee camp shot his father Abdullah as he tried to take a seriously wounded protester to hospital. Military sources said Arekawi senior was shot during an army swoop on masked protesters in the camp. They did not suggest he was himself masked. Army regulations allow troops to fire on masked Arabs who fail to stop when ordered. Arekawi was the 613th Palestinian killed by Israeli forces or civilians since the December 1987 outbreak of the uprising. Rafah shops closed Tuesday in a spontaneous protest strike as news of Arekawi's death spread. Troops in the West Bank town of Ramallah shot and wounded two teenage girls during protests by residents, Palestinian sources said. The Israeli army said it was suspending two para-military border policemen and would prosecute two soldiers over the fatal shooting of a masked Palestinian in the West Bank town of Bethlehem last month.

Major-General Yitzhak Mordechai, head of the army's central command, ordered an investigation into the shooting of Fadi Al Zabakli, 22, after the U.S. television network ABC broadcast footage of the incident which contradicted the army's version of events. The army said protesters were armed with axes, and soldiers fired warning shots in the air. But the ABC footage showed Palestinians hurling only stones and one soldier firing directly at the protesters. The army also said the soldiers opened fire when the masked Arabs ignored orders to halt. In clashes in the Gaza Strip Saturday, troops shot and wounded 11 stone-throwing protesters, hospital officials said. Two Palestinians were killed by unknown but it was unclear if they were murdered for nationalist or criminal motives. Hospital officials said a 54-year-old man was stabbed to death in Gaza City Saturday. Residents said he was not known as a collaborator with the Israeli occupation authorities and at least two of his sons were in prison for anti-Israeli activity in the uprising.

Baghdad seeks to reduce Euphrates cut-off

ANKARA (Agencies) — Iraq's oil minister, bearing a message from President Saddam Hussein, arrived here Sunday for discussions over Turkey's reduction of Euphrates riverflow towards Syria and Iraq. The newspaper of Iraq's ruling Baath Socialist Party Sunday warned that relations between the neighbours could suffer if Turkey does not let the water flow fully. The minister, Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi, declined to tell reporters the contents of the message from the Iraqi leader for Turkish President Turgut Ozal. The Iraq delegation was met at Ankara's Esenboga airport by State Minister Kamuran Inan. Chalabi said his special mission would include discussions with Ozal and other Turkish officials of the move by Turkey to fill up a dam on the Euphrates River, whose flow reaches Syria and Iraq. Ozal Saturday pushed a button cutting the flow so that Turkey could fill up the giant Ataturk hydroelectric dam in southeastern Turkey. Iraq sent its deputy foreign minister, Nizar Hamdoun, to Turkey last month to try to get the reduction in flow shortened from one month to two weeks. Turkey refused, saying a month of river damming was needed. Hamdoun said the month-long reduction in water would damage Iraqi agriculture. Turks maintain that since November they have released extra water to Syria and Iraq for storage in reservoirs to ride out the shortfall. Al Thawra said in an editorial Sunday that long-term loss of water would inflict great harm on 5.5 million Iraqis living in the Euphrates Basin unless Turkey handled the issue wisely. The newspaper called on Turkey to: — Reduce the length of time it diverts the river to 10 days or at most two weeks. — Increase other water flows while the dam fills. — Speed up negotiations for an agreement on Euphrates waters with Iraq and Syria. Chalabi told reporters: "We are confident that the Turkish side does not aim to harm Iraq by taking these measures. But continuation of the latest plan will certainly mean harming a great number of Iraqi citizens." As well as being oil minister, Chalabi has special responsibility for negotiation with Turkey on other matters.

Gripping account of Soviet spy unveiled

MOSCOW (R) — A senior Soviet diplomat, who for almost 30 years passed defence secrets to U.S. intelligence under the nose of the KGB, has been sentenced to death in Moscow. It was unclear whether the sentence had been carried out. The Communist Party daily Pravda outlined Sunday the remarkable career of "Donald," whose exploits included secret radio transmissions to the U.S. embassy from a passing Moscow trolleybus and dead drops along narrow streets of the old city centre. The newspaper said Donald, who was recruited while working at the Soviet U.N. mission in New York and also held diplomatic posts in Burma and India, passed secret plans for defence against biological and chemical weapons to his U.S. handlers. Other items included diplomatic codes, nuclear weapons doctrine and civil defence preparations. Pravda suggested Donald did considerable damage to the Soviet defence and security organs. "Having access to many state secrets, Donald was trading in everything the U.S. intelligence services were interested in. "With an excellent education

and as a teacher in one of the academies, he was an expert in many questions," it said, without giving any more details. Communications featured innocuous messages placed in the advertising columns of the New York Times — "Moody, Donald F. please write as you promised. Uncle Charles and sister Clara are ok." — and home-made magnetic containers to conceal documents. Pravda said another paid announcement in the New York Times welcomed his posting to Rangoon: "I was extremely glad to learn that you were lucky. I will visit you soon. Everything is ok." That message was followed by a visit to the Burmese capital by an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) who passed Donald to a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) contact. He was also given a special code phrase — "607 Madison Avenue" — in case he had to contact U.S. agents in an emergency, Pravda said. According to the gripping account, Donald more than once attracted the attention of KGB counter-intelligence agents but managed to play their suspicions with a cool head and meticulous precautions.

Gorbachev's opening to multi-party system a recognition of political reality

By Michael Putzel
The Associated Press
MOSCOW — President Mikhail Gorbachev's dropping of his staunch opposition to a multi-party system is a logical extension of his drive to permit a broader expression and competitive elections for public office. But while Gorbachev's statement Saturday that he can "see no tragedy in a multi-party system" constitutes a recognition of existing political reality in some Soviet republics, it could spawn factions, ethnic-oriented parties with little concern for the union. It also might doom the 70-year-old Communist political apparatus that operates parallel to — and wields more power than — the government at all levels of Soviet society. The Kremlin's Eastern European allies have challenged their own Communist leaders in recent months, and those countries have moved far away from the monopolies that used to be held by the ruling political cliques. But in the Soviet Union,

where the first democratic reforms began nearly five years ago, Gorbachev and the top leadership have steadfastly refused to relinquish the party's position as the only legally recognised political entity. Members of the Democratic Union, a tiny but outspoken group that brazenly calls itself an opposition party, have been routinely subjected to detention, arrest and even beatings by authorities, who have learned to tolerate many other forms of dissent. Since the Communists obliterated their political opposition in the first years after the Bolshevik revolution in 1917, the ruling party has controlled not just the political sphere but all walks of life. Party membership was a prerequisite to professional advancement. Party officials determined what children were taught, what people could read and where they could work. The party, now 20 million strong, also served as a unifying force, bringing together and exercising power over the more than 100 nationalities and ethnic groups that make

up the vast Soviet Union. Opponents of multiparty rule have suggested that if the Communist monopoly were broken, the union would disintegrate into dozens of parochial parties vying for the support of the narrow ethnic groups concentrated in each republic and region. As recently as Friday, only a day before conceding he would be willing to tolerate other political parties, Gorbachev warned of the hazards of such a system and argued that the Communist Party could serve as a forum for multiple views. "Haven't you and I seen and known during our long life that even with 10 or 20 parties the most cruel dictatorship formed and flourished?" he asked during a visit to a collective farm in independence-minded Lithuania. "And will a multiparty system save society? No, it is the regime that determines who lives how and who breathes how," he said. "Just look," he added, "with only one Communist Party of the Soviet Union how many opinions we have. And how

much plurality, democracy under a one-party system. How many public movements... I welcome it." In reality, Lithuania already has at least two political parties vying for official recognition. One, referred to as the Independent Communist Party of Lithuania, is the majority party in the republic. It has voted to break with Moscow and pursue its own course, prompting the visit by Gorbachev and other party leaders in an unsuccessful attempt to mend the break. The other, calling itself the Communist Party of Lithuania (platform CPSU), is made up of party stalwarts still loyal to Moscow who left the republic's party. It continues to follow the platform of the Soviet Communist Party. In other republics, local popular front groups have fielded candidates for legislative posts in opposition to Communists, and in Latvia on Saturday, about 200 environmental activists announced the formation of a Green Party with goals similar to those of the Greens in Western Europe.

Velayati: Decision on Soviet mediation soon

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Sunday that Tehran would announce a final decision soon on the Soviet Union's offer to mediate in deadlocked peace talks with Iraq, Tehran Radio reported. The state radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Velayati as saying the Iranians will consider "positively" Moscow's proposal and that its decision will be submitted to a senior Soviet envoy who will visit Tehran soon. Velayati said that "Iran accepts the proposal in principle," but warned that "it must not in any way undermine" the United Nations Security Council resolution that brought a cease-fire in the eight-year Gulf war Aug. 20, 1988. Peace talks began five days later, but have stalled on disputes over troop withdrawals, exchange of prisoners and sovereignty of the Shatt al Arab waterway that forms the southern boundary between the two countries. Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov announced last week that Tehran and Baghdad had responded to Moscow's offer to mediate the talks. Moscow has stressed that its proposal does not mean that the United Nations, which had been sidelined, Velayati stressed Sunday that "the Soviet Union's role must be to strengthen the duties and efforts" of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. An Iranian daily Sunday expressed optimism at the Soviet proposal and said that "the fact that both parties to the conflict have declared their willingness to explore the proposals sincerely strengthens the chances of its success." The Soviets have close links with Baghdad. They were Iraq's main arms supplier during the war. But Moscow and Tehran have moved closer over the last two years and signed a \$6 billion economic agreement last year. This has given Moscow some leverage with the Iranians.

Bulgarians demand resignation of Communists, fair chance in elections

SOFIA (Agencies) — More than 30,000 Bulgarians chanting "Communists resign" demonstrated in Sofia's central square Sunday for more democratic reforms and a fair chance for the opposition in elections this year. Leaders of the pro-democracy opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) read out demands including two-step legislative elections in May and November, and the scrapping of a constitutional provision guaranteeing the Communist Party's leading role. The national assembly is to vote Monday whether to strike the constitutional article, but it was unclear whether all three sections of the provision would be voted on immediately. The protesters also demanded an end to party domination of the workplace, the police, and the army. "We're hearing of changes in

nearby countries like Romania, even Albania, so we demand democratic guarantees," shouted Peter Beron, a leading UDF spokesman. The crowd responded with cheers and singing. It was the UDF's fourth major rally in Sofia since headline Communist leader Todor Zhivkov was ousted Nov. 10. Beron, reading the demands from the steps of Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, called for some parliamentary seats held by Zhivkov associates to be contested in May, with a full general election in November. Beron also called for a full report on the finances of the Department Six secret police. UDF President Zhelev Zhelev told reporters the opposition had no time to prepare for full general elections provisionally slated for May. "We couldn't win full elections

in May, but in November we have a good chance," he said. "How can we win elections in May when Department Six still exists and the mass media are still under dictatorship?" said Ljubomir Sobajiev, another UDF speaker. Zhelev said the UDF would demand May elections for 100 to 120 parliamentary seats occupied by "those compromised under Zhivkov." He said the demands would be presented at round-table talks with the government beginning Tuesday. Peter Mladenov, the former foreign minister who replaced Zhivkov as Communist Party chief and president, has promised democratic changes, including free elections and freedom of the press. But the opposition has criticised him for the slow pace of reform and for allowing former

Zhivkov associates to remain in high-ranking party positions. "After Nov. 10 (the date Zhivkov was ousted), our newly reformed leaders promised to tell us the real situation — but we're still waiting," said Mihail Mihailov, another speaker at the rally. Beron also read out excerpts from a declaration agreed Friday by nationalists, communists and opposition representatives, aimed at defusing ethnic tensions between Bulgarian nationalists and the country's estimated 1.5 million Turkish and Muslim minorities (see page 2). The declaration puts a stamp of approval on last month's government decree guaranteeing Turks' rights to reassume their own names after years of forced assimilation under Zhivkov. It will also be discussed in parliament Monday.

Leading German party calls for reunification

EAST BERLIN (Agencies) — East Germany's most influential opposition political party Sunday called for German unity, one day after joining forces with its sister party from Bonn. The Social Democrats' call comes as the two German states take daily steps towards closer ties, despite insistence from East Germany's current Communist leadership that the country must remain independent. West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl travelled to East Berlin. The government press office in Bonn said Kohl's visit was "completely private" and East Germany's official news agency ADN said Kohl declined to specify the reason for his trip. "Our political goal is a united Germany," the East German Social Democrats said in a statement Sunday morning at a party convention in East Berlin. It said that if the Social Democrats lead the government after elections in May, they will undertake "the necessary steps on the way to German unity" in agreement with the government in Bonn. "Whatever is possible immediately, should happen im-

mediately," the Social Democrats added. On Saturday, the East German Social Democrats joined forces with their leftist West German counterparts, who are in opposition to Kohl's Christian Democrats. The West Germans promised campaign support for their colleagues in East Berlin, making the Social Democrats a top contender when East Germans go to the polls in less than four months. With 32,000 East German members, the Social Democrats are the largest opposition political party. The New Forum opposition group, with an estimated 200,000 members, remains a diffuse organisation with conflicting goals and little interest in becoming a formal political party. The Social Democrats, scrubbed off the political map on the eastern side of defeated Nazi Germany in 1946, hopes to reclaim both its confiscated funds and its former voters from the Communists. "We want German unity only with the agreement of all our neighbours," said a resolution passed almost unanimously by the 440 delegates at an East

Berlin conference hall. "Their borders are inviolable," it said, referring to Poland, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, all of which have territory once occupied or held by Germany. It said the initial aim would be monetary and economic union with West Germany. Unification could follow only as part of the process of democratic and economic renewal in Europe. West German SPD leader Hans-Jochen Vogel, one of several top members of his party to address the meeting, said: "A social democratic Germany would be a good neighbour." His party, the main opposition force in West Germany, would help the East German SPD fight the country's first free elections in May through a joint committee that would give tactical advice and provide speakers such as former Chancellor Willy Brandt. And to show it would not be a one-way street, top East German SPD member Steffen Reiche said: "If we win, then our sister party will win in the West." West Germany votes in general elections in December.

E. Europeans hope for good ties with both Syria and Israel

By Alistair Lyon
Reuters

DAMASCUS — East European countries want to stay on good terms with Syria and other Arab states despite moves to improve ties with Israel, diplomats say.

But the need to reform their own economies may take them less ready to offer credit or enter barter deals with Syria.

And the Soviet Union, while still considering Damascus its main Arab ally, has made clear it does not accept President Hafez Al Assad's aim of military "strategic parity" with Israel.

"When we resumed relations with Israel, it was not accepted by the Arab World with full happiness," Hungarian Ambassador Andor Egyed told Reuters. "There was a gentleman's reaction from Syria, which expressed regret but said Hungary was independent and could establish relations with anyone."

Egyed said Hungary had put relations with Syria on a basis of "mutual benefit" as economic conditions worsened at home.

"Now we have to concentrate our material possibilities on economic reconstruction in Hungary. For the moment we can't invest here or offer credit," he added.

But views on the central Middle East issue had not changed. "Hungary's opposition is that Israel must accept a peaceful, international, political solution of the Palestinian question, including state," Egyed said. "We also say that the Arab side needs to approve Israel's right to exist."

In September Hungary became the first East European country to renew diplomatic relations with Israel, severed since the 1967 war. Czechoslovakia and Poland have both said they plan to restore relations.

Romania, the only East European country not to cut ties with the Arab World.

"After normalising its internal structure, Romania will take steps to establish new relations with Arab countries," said a Romanian diplomat, who doubted there would be major changes.

East German sources said a Foreign Ministry delegation would visit Damascus soon to explain changes in East Germany and their effect on relations with Syria and the Arab World.

Syria, with its own brand of Baath Party socialism, has long had close economic and military ties with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. In 1986 almost half Syria's exports went to the socialist bloc.

The Soviet Union, owed an estimated \$15 billion mainly for arms supplies, indicated last year that Syria's ability to pay would be a factor in future military cooperation.

Palestinian leaders based in Damascus say they are confident Soviet and East European support for the Palestinian cause will continue despite recent Israeli diplomatic gains.

"The socialist countries will build their own approaches to Israel to have what they call a balanced policy, but they will continue to support a comprehensive peace in the Middle East," he added.

East," Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, told Reuters.

"The Soviet Union will continue to support its friends, not only out of principle, but also because it has its own interests in the Middle East... and treaties with Arab countries."

"I see absolutely no need for haste in restoring diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel," Hawatmeh said.

"Now our Palestinian policy depends on the intifada, a democratic and peaceful movement, we need political, spiritual and mass support, not military," he said.

Hawatmeh said he had raised with Moscow the question of emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

"This worries the whole Palestinian people," he declared.

"Any rise in Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union or other countries to Israel leads to more settlement on Palestinian land at our expense and adds to the human potential of the Israeli military machine."

George Habash, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said he was unhappy at the sight of East European countries resuming ties with Israel.

"But there is a big difference between them and the U.S. administration, which after two years of the intifada has not said 'yes' to Palestinian self-determination," he said.

"The Soviet Union says a very plain 'yes' to self-determination and an independent Palestinian state."

MISSILE DEBRIS: Pakistani military officials inspect the debris of a Soviet-made Scud missile which landed outside a village 150 kilometres inside Pakistani territory last week. The missile was believed to have been fired from Afghan territory.

Human rights abused under Badr in Egypt, report says

CAIRO (AP) — Torture of political prisoners was on the rise and human rights were abused during 1989 when sacked Interior Minister Zaki Badr was in power, a report by the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights claims.

The report demanded an independent inquiry into its claims of torture and asked President Hosni Mubarak to restate Egypt's commitments to human rights.

The organisation's report said that those responsible for the alleged torture and abuses should be immediately tried by a criminal court.

Meanwhile, Badr's new replacement, Mohammad Abdul Halim Moussa, was quoted in Sunday's newspapers as saying that the Interior Ministry "is committed to sovereignty, the law and protecting democracy."

The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights said in a 21-page report issued last week that use of torture in Egypt had become widespread.

"The use of torture in Egypt has become widespread to the point that it now appears to be a matter of policy of Egyptian security forces."

"In 1989, there was a marked increase in the use of torture, not only to members of political trends and groups suspected of opposing the government, but to ordinary citizens with no political affiliation or interest," the report said.

It said methods of torture varied from "severe beating, slaps, punches, kicks, (hitting with) rifle butts, leather belts, hosepipes, bamboo sticks and electric batons. In some cases the whip was brought back into use to beat and torture detainees."

It said electric shocks were also used. It said at least one detainee, Makhoul Abdulla Ahmad, died while in police custody on Jan. 6, 1989 after he was tortured.

The top domestic security official who was sworn in Friday said he believed democratic dialogue was the best way to deal with issues, clearly steering away from his predecessor's renowned iron-fisted security operations.

Mubarak fired Badr after a public row erupted when the minister reportedly insulted fellow cabinet members, opposition parties, journalists and others. The name-calling trades were reported by two opposition newspapers earlier this week.

The daily opposition Al Wafd said Sunday that Badr's dismissal triggered widespread rejoicing in the Egyptian countryside where farmers fired their rifles in celebration. It said even officers at the Interior Ministry celebrated when they heard the news, with one officer sacrificing two sheep and distributing their meat to poor people in a typical way

of rejoicing. Mubarak's dismissal of Badr has also been applauded in both state-owned and opposition newspapers.

Detainees to be freed

The new interior minister will soon free scores of Muslim fundamentalists rounded up by his hardline predecessor, security sources said Sunday.

Moussa is now reviewing the cases of people still held under emergency regulations after being reprieved by Egyptian courts.

The sources said the new minister planned to release some suspected criminals as well as Muslim fundamentalist dissidents — labelled dogs and pigs by Badr.

According to emergency regulations, in force since 1981 when Muslim zealots gunned down President Anwar Sadat, the Interior Ministry can hold suspects in detention centres without charge for a month. The ministry can also renew the detention orders.

The exact number of those to be released is not known but the sources said they included some held under emergency regulations after initially being detained on suspicion of dealing in drugs and hard currency on the black market.

Lebanese mark 40th day of Muawad's death

ZGHORTA, Lebanon (R) — The wife of murdered President Rene Muawad said Sunday that those who rejected the Taif peace pact shared responsibility in killing her husband.

"Rene Muawad is the martyr of reconciliation. He who opposes this march and tries to obstruct its execution bears a big share of responsibility in the assassination," said Nayla Muawad at a memorial service marking the 40th day on her husband's death.

"It does not make any difference whether this responsibility is political, national or criminal," she said in apparent reference to defiant general Michel Aoun.

Aoun, who holds out in the Christian enclave with his 15,000 mainly Christian troops, rejected the pact reached in the Saudi city of Taif in October last year because it did not ensure the swift pullout of Syria's 40,000 troops from Lebanon.

He refused to recognise Muawad's election or submit to the authority of his successor, President Elias Hrawi.

Lebanese officials and foreign ambassadors, including Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, attended the mass at the Saint John Church in Muawad's hometown in the northern village of Zghorta.

Muawad, who was backed by

neighbouring Syria, was killed with 16 people when a truck bomb ripped through his parade in west Beirut on November 22, 1992, 17 days after he took office.

On his election day, he pledged to implement the Taif pact, ending 14 years of civil war, reforming the country's sectarian-based political system by giving Muslims more power.

The bereaved wife, dressed in black, vowed to follow the political path of her husband even if it meant martyrdom.

"Grief will not wane our determination but will only increase our firm will and resolution. Either life in a united Lebanon without any sectarian or geographical divisions or no Lebanon at all," Muawad's wife said.

"Rene Muawad was a man of dialogue. He was targeted with such ferocity because he was a symbol of reconciliation and a hope for a better future," she said.

"It is about time to unite in the face of the conspiracy to partition Lebanon. Disintegration and partition are schemes to assassinate Lebanon. Then there won't be any hope for resurrection."

"Enough divisions... enough chaos... enough displacement... enough suffering and poverty. Let's build together what the war has destroyed," she said.

Soviet swim to Iran, hundreds on border

NICOSIA (AP) — A number of Soviet Muslims braved sub-zero temperatures to swim across the Araks River into Iran using inflated tire tubes, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Sunday.

IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, did not say how many Soviet Muslims entered Iran during the crossing Saturday. But it reported earlier that 12 such crossings have occurred since Shiite Muslims in Soviet Azerbaijan started protests Dec. 31.

Shiites in the Soviet province are demanding closer links with their ethnic co-religionists in northwest Iran amid the wave of reform that has been sweeping Eastern Europe. Some militants want total union.

IRNA said that about 1,000 Soviet Muslims congregated on the Soviet bank of the Araks Saturday, shouting greetings and religious slogans to a similar number of Iranian Azerbaijanis gathered on the other side.

Such gatherings are reported frequently in the Iranian media. Tehran Television, also monitored in Nicosia, earlier showed a gathering of about 1,000 Soviet Muslims across the river Friday.

The Soviet Azerbaijanis share a common culture, language and religion with their Iranian cousins, who constitute about one-third of Iran's 55-million population.

The border incidents have occurred against a backdrop of mounting violence by militant Soviet Azerbaijanis in conflict with Soviet Armenians over who should govern the mostly Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan.

The Soviets have long been fearful of Muslim unrest along its southern border with Iran. But President Hashemi Rafsanjani's government in Tehran, which has good links with Moscow, apparently does not want to stir up Islamic fervor in the region.

Bulgarian ethnic tension flickers

DJEBEL, Bulgaria (R) — Tension between Bulgarian nationalists and the country's ethnic Turkish minority flickered beneath the surface at the weekend despite an agreement to safeguard both minority and national interests.

An 11-point declaration drawn up Friday by Bulgarian nationalists, Muslims, government and opposition representatives pledged to restore ethnic Turkish names and religious rights while making clear the minority would

not be allowed autonomy. Ethnic Turks who clustered around Western journalists in this remote southeastern village said the agreement seemed to have quelled a wave of anti-Turkish street protests that swept the country at the beginning of the month. But they were doubtful the promises would be put into practice.

"A lot of people are still afraid to speak, especially in front of Western journalists," said one ethnic Turk in the village square.

Another bystander pointed to a raincoat man on the edge of the crowd and whispered "police."

"If everyone follows the 11 points, it could lead to a quiet life," another villager commented. "But it would be foolish to be optimistic and we must wait and see how it is implemented."

The ruling Communist Party's Dec. 29 decision to restore Muslim rights tapped an undercurrent of ethnic rivalry and mistrust dating back to 500 years.

Egypt-Syria links mark move towards Arab unity, but hazards remain

By Martin Marris
The Associated Press

DAMASCUS — The resumption of relations by Syria and Egypt takes the Arabs a step closer to the unity that has eluded them for decades and reflects the sea-change in their leaders' perceptions that has taken place in recent years.

The rapprochement that ended a 12-year rift between two giants of the Arab World comes amid other signs of growing cohesion among the Arab states.

It also underlines the more pragmatic approach Arab leaders are now taking, turning away from the mirage of instant unification that so seduced them for many years.

Their view of the world and their place in it has shifted over the years, from the concept of the Arab Nation to the harsh realities of coexistence with other power blocs and that Israel is there to stay.

The Arab League's push for an international Middle East peace conference, under United Nations auspices, under-

lines the understanding that Israel is a reality and cannot be crushed. The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) recognition of Israel's right to exist exemplifies that.

The Syria-Egypt reconciliation is the latest step towards ending decades of division in the Arab World.

Syria and Jordan made up in 1987 after years of dispute. Last year, Syria restored relations, broken off in 1986, with Morocco.

Egypt came in from the cold in 1987 after a decade of ostracism over its 1979 treaty with Israel. South Yemen and North Yemen are striving towards unity after a 20-year split.

In crisis-torn Lebanon, which Arab rivals have long used as a proxy battleground, the 22-member Arab League brokered a peace treaty in October aimed at ending the 14-year-old civil war.

The treaty has stalled because of Christian leader Michel Aoun's rejection of it. But the Arab League had final-

ly taken the bull by the horns after years of impotently watching as Lebanon tore itself apart.

Last year, two regional alliances — the four-nation Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and the five-state Arab Maghreb Union — were formed and grouped the nine countries in economic and defense blocs founded on the common interests of their members rather than outright political unity.

They followed the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council, formed in 1981.

But analysts said these groups still have a long way to go before they can become effective as the Arab World faces increasing economic integration in Europe, their biggest trading bloc, and the uncertainties posed by the partial crumbling of East-West power blocs.

"It's wonderful that the leaders meet," said Professor Kamel Abu Jaber, president of Jordan's World Affairs Council. "But does that mean this is

real unity? I don't think so." Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, citing superpower detente, the European Community's (EC) plan for economic unity in 1992 and reforms in Eastern Europe, noted earlier this month: "In this region, we are concerned primarily with increasing our ability to deal with the European entity that is moving fast towards unity... this new giant that will not confine itself to the EC countries, but will extend to East European countries sooner or later."

He stressed in an interview with Cairo's Al-Ahram newspaper that greater Arab cohesion "does not mean entering into mergers or anything similar."

"If we set ourselves such an illusory aim at this stage, we will not accomplish anything at all and thus we will lose the possible in pursuing the impossible."

Abu Jaber noted: "Looking at it in the historical perspective, the regionalisation of the Arab World, the attempt to

make smaller unity rather than one great Arab unity, is a reflection of a certain maturity among... Arab leaders."

The world's 210 million Arabs live in 21 countries across a swath of territory that stretches from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean.

They share a common language, Arabic, and culture, a history of conquest and a majority religion, Islam.

Despite a common enemy, Israel, and their quest for greater unity, the modern history of the Arabs has often been one of discord based in part on traditional tribal rivalries.

Syria led the Arab boycott of Egypt after President Anwar Sadat visited occupied Jerusalem in 1977. It broke off relations with Cairo that year and was followed by 16 other Arab countries when Cairo signed the only peace treaty between an Arab country and Israel two years later.

President Hafez Al Assad still adamantly opposes the treaty while Hosni Mubarak holds firmly to the agreement.

It is a sign of the changing times that this did not prevent them from resuming diplomatic relations last month.

Western diplomats in Damascus said the move was prompted, largely by Assad's desire to escape from increasing isolation in the region following the Arab summit decision to readmit Egypt to the Arab League, the oldest regional grouping founded in March 1945.

That left only maverick Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi holding out against Cairo, although he too has been moving slowly towards resuming diplomatic relations.

The two countries have reopened their border, resumed air links and held talks on closer ties in agriculture, oil, transport and other fields.

Qadhafi, the last representative in the Arab World of the union fever that swept the region from the 1950s through the 1970s, said with characteristic flourish last week in Tripoli: "The Arabs must unite... or else the Arabs will be scat-

tered throughout the world like Gypsies."

But the history of mergers between Arab countries has been a warning to the current generation of leaders, who remember the fiasco of Egypt's three-year merger with Syria that broke down in acrimony in 1961 with Damascus accusing Cairo of betrayal and wrecking its economy.

The GCC, made up of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman, was set up in 1981 after the Iran-Iraq war broke out.

It was designed as a defence and economic grouping to increase trade between its members, work towards standardised military forces and foster regional economic projects, such as a common gas and electricity networks.

But, Abu Jaber noted, "nothing has come out of it except meetings of the leaders, consultations rather than coordination."

The Arab Maghreb Union, formed in February 1989,

groups Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania. It aims to set up an economic common market on the European model.

King Hassan II of Morocco said the grouping "brings closer the realisation of integral Arab unity." But so far there have been few signs of concrete economic benefits.

The main payoff has been diplomatic, bringing about a rapprochement between countries whose ties were strained or non-existent.

Algeria and Morocco were at odds over the Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas in the Western Sahara, and Libya and Tunisia broke off relations in the mid-1980s amid Tunisian accusations of Libyan-inspired sabotage.

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen set up the Arab Cooperation Council in February 1989. They allow free travel between their countries without passports and have plans to ease the migration of workers from one country to another.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR			
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 77311-19			
PROGRAMME ONE 15:00 Koran 15:45 Programme review 16:45 Children programmes 18:00 News summary in Arabic 18:05 World News 19:15 Local programme 19:40 Programme review 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Arabic series 21:30 Programme review 21:40 Local programme 22:00 News summary in Arabic			
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FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 07:45 Baghdad (RJ) 09:00 Damascus (RJ) 09:00 Sanaa (RJ) 09:00 Cairo, Agaba (RJ) 09:30 Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ) 10:15 Larnaca (RJ) 11:15 Agaba (RJ) 16:45 Cairo, Agaba (RJ) 17:45 Vienna, Istanbul (RJ) 18:10 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ) Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725 Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247000 AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111			
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MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg. Apple 420 / 380 Banana 430 / 400 Banana (Mukammal) 400 / 450 Beans 530 / 450 Cabbage 30 / 30 Carrot 220 / 180 Cauliflower 140 / 100 Cauliflowers (large) 250 / 200 Cauliflowers (small) 220 / 180 Dates 450 / 400 Eggplant 130 / 100 Garlic 800 / 700 Green beans 250 / 180 Lemon 150 / 100 Marrow (large) 150 / 100 Marrow (small) 220 / 180 Onion (dry) 240 / 200 Onion (green) 180 / 140 Orange 200 / 160 Orange (Shamouti) 320 / 280 Pepper (hot) 350 / 300 Pepper (sweet) 480 / 450 Potato 270 / 180 Radish 120 / 80 Sage 450 / 350 Solan 100 / 70 Tomatoes 200 / 150			



Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday presents certificates to policewomen who completed a special training course (Petra)

Queen graduates 41 policewomen

AMMAN (Petra) — A batch of 41 policewomen graduated Sunday from the Policewomen Academy after completing a 22-week training course and doing practical as well as theoretical work in various types of police work.

Her Majesty Queen Noor, who attended the graduation ceremony, congratulated the graduates and wished them success in

serving their country and people. Academy Commander Aida Matar delivered a speech outlining the nature of training given to the graduates and noting that the academy had been turning out batches of women who have been employed in the task of ensuring security for the country side by side with policemen.

The graduates paraded before the Queen and the audience and

presented a performance of their skill in judo, karate and other martial arts.

According to a police official, the graduates received training in legal matters, police work, military training and other types of police skills.

Public Security Department Director-General Fadel Ali Fuhed also attended the ceremony.

Badran reiterates intention not to interfere with press

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Sunday reiterated his government's intention not to interfere with the press and to leave it to the newspaper editors and journalists to take responsibility. "What the government is concerned about is to see all writers and journalists shouldering national responsibility and offering true service to their country," Badran said at a meeting with the president and members of the board of the Jordan Press Association (JPA). "We have to learn from past lessons and mistakes in our endeavour to follow the course of democracy," the prime minister added.

JPA President Hashem Khreisat discussed with the prime minister the general conditions of journalists and the media and the prospects for the coming stage. He said that the journalists were quite happy with the government's policies especially with its

decision to cancel martial law and to reverse earlier resolutions concerning the press. He said journalists were looking forward to more measures to help promote their work and to give them "psychological and employment security so that they can increase production, improve their performance and bolster their sense of national belonging."

Following the lengthy meeting, Khreisat presented the prime minister with a memorandum including a set of proposals from the JPA to help promote media work in the Kingdom.

On Jan. 7 Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin said in a statement to the Jordan Times that the government plans to reexamine the status of the Jordanian press and reconsider the question of newspaper ownership making chief editors the sole responsible persons for running the newspapers.

King, premier hail ABC decision to open new bank

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), which has decided to open a bank in Jordan Sunday, received support for the project from His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

"The Jordanian government deeply appreciates the ABC move and welcomes the bank here to contribute towards bolstering the national Jordanian economy," Badran told ABC President Abdullah Saoudi.

"The ABC decision is a practical translation of investing Arab money in Arab land," Badran told Saoudi at the meeting which was

attended by Zubair Khouri, director-general of the Housing Bank.

The two sides reviewed the general economic and financial situation in the Arab World and the ABC's endeavour in Jordan in cooperation with the Housing Bank and the Jordan Securities Corporation.

Saoudi said that ABC considers Jordan as a country with great investment potential which has a good name and has the necessary infrastructure with sufficient financial expertise.

King Hussein also received

Saoudi and Khouri. The Bahrain-based ABC has subsidiaries in Monaco, West Germany, Spain and Hong Kong and has recently announced plans to target Arab rather than international markets for growth in the 1990s.

Saoudi said in a statement quoted by Reuters last month that ABC planned to put its expertise in Arab markets.

He said that the ABC bank in Amman would be an independent bank operating on a purely commercial basis (See story on page 6).

'1990 fiscal budget realistic'

AMMAN (Petra) — The chairman of the financial committee of the Lower House of Parliament, Abdullah Nsour, Sunday described the 1990 fiscal budget as realistic and reflects responsibility since it highlights the country's difficulties and potential.

Speaking to reporters following a committee session, Nsour said that the Jordanian economy "needs several years to regain its health but the downward trend has now stopped and everything

is stabilising." "The economic graphic line is expected to point upwards but this process will be slow," said Nsour, who once served as minister of planning. He criticised the economic chaos that prevailed in the country in the previous period when the "real deficit" and "real volume" of revenues were not reflected in the budget.

He also expressed optimism for better economic performance, but said that the 1990 fiscal budget failed to address the coun-

try's chronic unemployment problem.

Nsour said that the committee had decided to call leading economists in Jordan to air their views about the fiscal budget before voting on it.

Voting on the budget, he said, "will have a similar procedure like the vote of confidence in the new government, so therefore a vote of confidence in the budget will mean a vote of confidence in the government and a failure means a vote of no confidence in the government."

Arminius Quintet to perform in Jordan

By Nelly Lanza
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Arminius Wind Quintet, five German youths who received their musical education at the Music Academy of Detmold, Germany, have formed a wind ensemble that should be performing at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman Tuesday Jan. 16 at 8:00 p.m. The concert will be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein. It was through the auspices of the Goethe Institute and Luthiana that the National Music Conservatory, Nour Al Hussein Foundation, was able to receive the performers. The group's musical formation does not only include wind instrument classes at the academy but goes on with performance in Germany as well as abroad.

There is a continuous artistic performance, its aim is to continue the already prevalent Detmold tradition of wind-instrument ensembles.

The group is very young, but has performed in the Federal Republic of Germany, France, and Switzerland and has won international competitions.

Flautist Katharin Ehlenbrocker, born in 1963 in Murburg, started her first flute studies at age 10. In 1982, she studied with Professor Michael Achilles in the Music Academy of Detmold and graduated in 1988. Other than chamber music and soloist performance she practiced with singer Hella Heitzmann and joined the North German Philharmonic Orchestra and the Bochumer Symphonische Orchestra.

Katharina Kammerloher plays the oboe. Born in 1963, she received her first musical education at age seven. In 1984, she studied in the Detmold Music Academy under the supervision of Professor Gernot Schmalz, who previously performed in Amman with the Munich Chamber Soloists, the Bamberg and the European Symphony Orchestras.

Among her orchestra performances, we can count concerts with the Munich Chamber Soloists, the Bamberg and the European Symphony Orchestras.

Harald Heilmann, who plays the horn, was born in 1969 in Beckum and started at age

nine. He won several competitions with "Youth Makes Music." Between 1986 and 1988, he worked as a solo horn player in Landesjugendorchester NRW and has since been studying with Professor Erich Penzel at the Cologne Music Academy.

Thomas Backhaus, who plays the clarinet, was born in 1963 in Frankfurt and started his clarinet studies at 11 with Walter Pauly, soloist of the Broadcasting Service Orchestra in Frankfurt. Between 1978 and 1983, he joined the Youth Orchestra NRW and in 1979 won the prize of "Youth Makes Music." He studied with Professor H.D. Klaus in the Music Academy of Detmold. He is a member of the Cologne Ensemble that works in collaboration with composer Maurizio Kagel. He also performs with the State Theatre in Kassel.

Peter Brechtel, on the bassoon, was born in 1967 in Ulm and started bassoon lessons at age 11. He won several prizes in the competition of "Youth Makes Music." Between 1984 and 1986, he studied under the supervision of H.J. Leetz in Wuppertal. Since then he studied with Professor Helman

Jung in the Music Academy of Detmold and with him joined the Detmold Wind Sextet. He participated in the Chamber Music Recording for radio and television as well as in the Philharmonic Orchestra of Bielefeld and performed at the Oldenburg States Theatre.

The repertoire

The repertoire they will be performing includes works by Mozart, Danzi, Rossini and Ligeti.

In Mozart's time, the eighteenth century, wind instruments were used by symphony orchestras only for doubling, reinforcing and filling in the harmonies. Chamber music used the clavier and violin for indoor performances and string quartets for outdoors. It was only in the period between 1774 and 1781 in Salzburg that Mozart began to compose chamber music for wind instruments such as the light and charming flute quartet in D major (K. 285) and the more serious oboe quartet (K. 370).

The Arminius Quintet will be performing "Divertimento" which is bound to convey the

pleasant feeling of works that Mozart composed in the 1770s as entertainment pieces for garden parties, home concerts and occasions such as weddings and birthdays of his friends and patrons. Light pieces that he called "serenades" or "Divertimento."

Next they will be playing the "Wind Quintet in D major" of Danzi and the "Wind Quartet in F major" of Gioacchino Rossini, the principal Italian composer of the early 19th century who was endowed with a pronounced gift for melody and had a flair for stage effect, which made him very successful. Most of his work was for vocal music, he wrote two operas, two oratorios, a dozen cantatas and only few instrumental works.

The Quintet will conclude their performance with "Six Bagatelles."

(Bagatelle meaning a short musical piece) by contemporary composer Ligeti. It is interesting to note that Ligeti was the winner of the "Goethe prize" in the Goethe Institute in Munich last year for his achievements in the field of music.

Euro-Arab information exchange talks open

AMMAN (J.T.) — West German and Arab media specialists and representatives will Monday open a three-day meeting here to discuss ways of boosting Arab-German information and media cooperation designed to promote understanding between Europe and the Arab World.

The round-table conference is expected to be attended by 10 members of the Arab News Agencies Federation (ANAF) and delegates representing 10 major newspapers, magazines and radio stations in the Federal Republic of Germany.

ANAF Secretary General Farid Ayar said the participants would try to lay down the basis for joint action in news exchange based on mutual understanding and objectivity.

One of the West German participants from Mains University will subject a working paper dealing with problems involved in world information exchange operations, and the ANAF will submit a study on ways of conveying news material from the Arab World to European countries, Ayar said.

He noted that other working papers to be presented by both sides would deal with other various issues of concern to Arab and European countries.

Part of the study to be presented by the ANAF, Ayar said, deals with "the recent anti-Arab campaign that followed the upheaval in Eastern Europe and ways to counter such hostile media attacks."

Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin is expected to open the meetings.

Arab delegates at the meeting represent Egypt, Morocco, Libya, Algeria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Syria and Jordan. The delegates, who also include directors of news agencies, will tour several places of interest in Jordan and will meet with Jordanian officials.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS: A royal decree was issued Sunday endorsing the appointment of Dr. Awad Khicif and Dr. Ali Mahafza as presidents of Mu'ta and the Yarmouk universities respectively, as of Dec. 18, 1989 (Petra).

AOID TO MEET WEDNESDAY: The board of directors of the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development (AOID) will hold an extraordinary session in Baghdad Wednesday to discuss matters related to pan-Arab specifications and standards in industry. Jordan's delegation to meetings will be headed by Minister of Industry and Trade Ziad Fariz and will include the ministry's industry department director, Mohammad Bani Hani. Fariz will leave Amman Tuesday to take part in the meetings and to participate also in the meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ministerial committee.

MINISTRY BANS 48 FOREIGN FIRMS: The Ministry of Finance Sunday banned dealings with 48 foreign companies for violating regulations of the Arab Office for Boycotting Israel. The ministry lifted the ban on 16 foreign companies after they chose to abide by the office's regulations. The ministry gave no other details (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITION

★ An exhibition entitled "They chose 30 poets" at the French Cultural Centre.

FILMS

★ A French film entitled "Rive Droite, Rive Gauche" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

★ A programme of documentaries at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.



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Fahd Salameh (right) defends his master's dissertation at the University of Jordan

First blind person to get MA from U of J Images of imperialism

By Ma'moon Arar
Special to the Jordan Times

Fahd Salameh is the first visually handicapped person to obtain a master of arts degree in English literature from the University of Jordan. He is also the writer of the essay on Eliot which won the prize of the competition held 13 months ago, organized by the British Council in Amman on the centenary anniversary of Eliot's birthday. He presently works at Radio Jordan and his colleagues there express their admiration for his accuracy in his work. I took this occasion and asked Fahd to tell me something about his dissertation *The Portrait of Imperialism*, why he chose this subject and the contribution he makes by presenting it.

"I cannot claim to have contributed much to literature through this dissertation, since the work I have undertaken can simply be classified among the assimilative type of dissertations, rather than the original ones. Many books deal with Conrad and Kipling either singly or together; therefore, apart from the new presentation in which the subject is treated, I claim no significant contribution to be made on my part."

The *Portrait of Imperialism* is a study of themes and characters in Joseph Conrad and Rudyard Kipling; it is an attempt to present the picture of imperialism as portrayed by the fiction of these two artists who, more than other contemporary writers, were deeply concerned with the question of imperialism. The study which covers three major works by each of Conrad and Kipling is in 108

pages of four chapters, an introduction, a conclusion, notes and works cited.

In the first chapter, a definition of imperialism is formulated and an analogy between history proper and fiction is drawn. The second chapter presents the two aspects of the imperialist agents represented in the military and economic agents of imperialism who are simply the soldier and the entrepreneur.

The third chapter exposes the exploitative nature of imperialism which uses its agents as instruments for exploiting indigenous societies; however and in the final analysis, those agents themselves are presented to be no less exploited by their masters than the oppressed peoples.

The fourth chapter reveals how the agents of imperialism attempted to orientate themselves to their new societies. The sudden transportation of the European agents from their protected societies into primitive ones brought about psychological transformation; lack of self-restraint and absence of a spiritual basis for their missions, led to physical and psychological defects in their personal and official goals.

The study shows the difference in approach by the two artists towards imperialism through the adoption of Darwinism and Marxism by Kipling and Conrad respectively.

The choice of this subject has been the result of a conviction arrived at through the study of these two artists that within the Western world, there exists a sort of schism or division towards

imperialism's declared philanthropic intentions and aims; and this division is deeply rooted and goes back to the time of imperialism's heydays. Thus I find it worthwhile to lay emphasis on the different attitudes which Europeans adopt towards the policies of their governments when tackling the 'Orient', according to Salameh.

Q. Do you intend to carry on your studies and obtain a Ph.D. degree?

A. At the moment there is no such a programme at the University of Jordan. I shall attempt to look for any possibility of obtaining a scholarship or a grant that may provide for such a step.

Q. How did you overcome the difficulty of reading books for your research?

A. First, I received many books in Braille from the Students' Braille Library in London that helped me much in my study. Nevertheless, the main sources are in inkprint and I needed people to read them for me. I thus respect, I owe gratitude to many of my colleagues at the university.

Q. How involved are you in the blind community in Jordan?

A. I am a member of the Friendship Association for the Blind and I think it is my duty to help other blind persons in their studies through all available means. His Highness Prince Ra'd plays a great role in promoting the cause of the blind in Jordan culturally and economically through his continuous efforts in providing opportunities of work and study for this part of our Jordanian community.

Media at their freest after Romanian revolution

By George Jahn
The Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania — Romania's whirlwind revolution has given the news media the most freedom they've had in decades, leaving journalists joyful but uncertain about the future.

Formerly glum reporters who reluctantly accepted constraints appear transformed now that they can tell it as they see it.

"We're finally doing our real job," said Marian Bistriceanu, 37, who works for Romanian short-wave radio.

"We are free to think, to have our own opinions, we are free to ask the questions we think we should ask, and we are free to broadcast the information we gather in this way," Bistriceanu said in a recent interview.

His face — a picture of misery during the November party congress, where all news revolved around Ceausescu — was suffused with happiness as he tried to express what reporting freedom meant to him.

What Ceausescu did to us was not create lack of bread or lack of heat," he said, alluding to the privation of recent years. "He tried to put our spirit in chains."

The chains are broken.

Other journalists expressed similar sentiments in interviews about the 24-year Ceausescu era, ended last month.

Before the upheaval, newspapers, radio and television were in the firm grip of a repressive apparatus that often took orders directly from Ceausescu himself.

That translated into a media show where newspapers, magazines and broadcast outlets were virtually the preserve of the 'supreme leader' and his wife Elena.

During the 14th congress of the Communist Party in November, where delegates rose and sat at the imperial wave of Ceausescu's hand, the few hours of television programming available daily were devoted to songs and heroic poems praising the pair.

More than 60 per cent of newspaper content also dealt with their activities. The personality cult that deformed Romania's news media under the Ceausescu even extended to magazines meant for foreign consumption.

The English version of the foreign policy weekly *Lumea* appearing Dec. 15, the eve of the revolution, devoted 24 of its 32 pages to the dictator, liberally laced with praise of his "tireless initiatives" and "innovative thinking."

Then came the revolution. And less than two weeks later, an unrecognisable *Lumea*. "This is the first time the weekly *Lumea* international expresses itself free-

ly," the initial post-revolution issue proclaimed in a first-page editorial.

"We shall write, we shall keep on writing what we think, we shall write the truth, the real truth of this country," the editorial proclaimed.

Inside articles dealt with the revolution and joyfully

"Before the upheaval, newspapers, radio and television were in the firm grip of a repressive apparatus that often took orders directly from Ceausescu himself. That translated into a media show where newspapers, magazines and broadcast outlets were virtually the preserve of the 'supreme leader' and his wife Elena."

announced the end of the dictatorship under headlines such as "the hour has come for Romania's reunion with the world."

The issue was the work of *Lumea* editor Rada Budeanu, who worked feverishly to put together its 16 pages following Ceausescu's overthrow.

Budeanu, interviewed in the imposing Soviet-built palace housing the state print media, guarded against counter-revolution by AK-47 toting employees, was ebullient over his new-found freedoms. But the joy was tinged by awareness of the unclear future of a country in flux.

"I got the first issue published, and the second issue" is about to appear. "But I don't know about the third issue," said Budeanu, 47.

"The whole press changing, and we have no models after more than 40 years of Communism, we are starting from zero."

In the old days, the press section in the central committee was directed by a secretary, who frequently turned to Ceausescu himself for advice, so in a way Ceausescu was the editor of the whole media," he said.

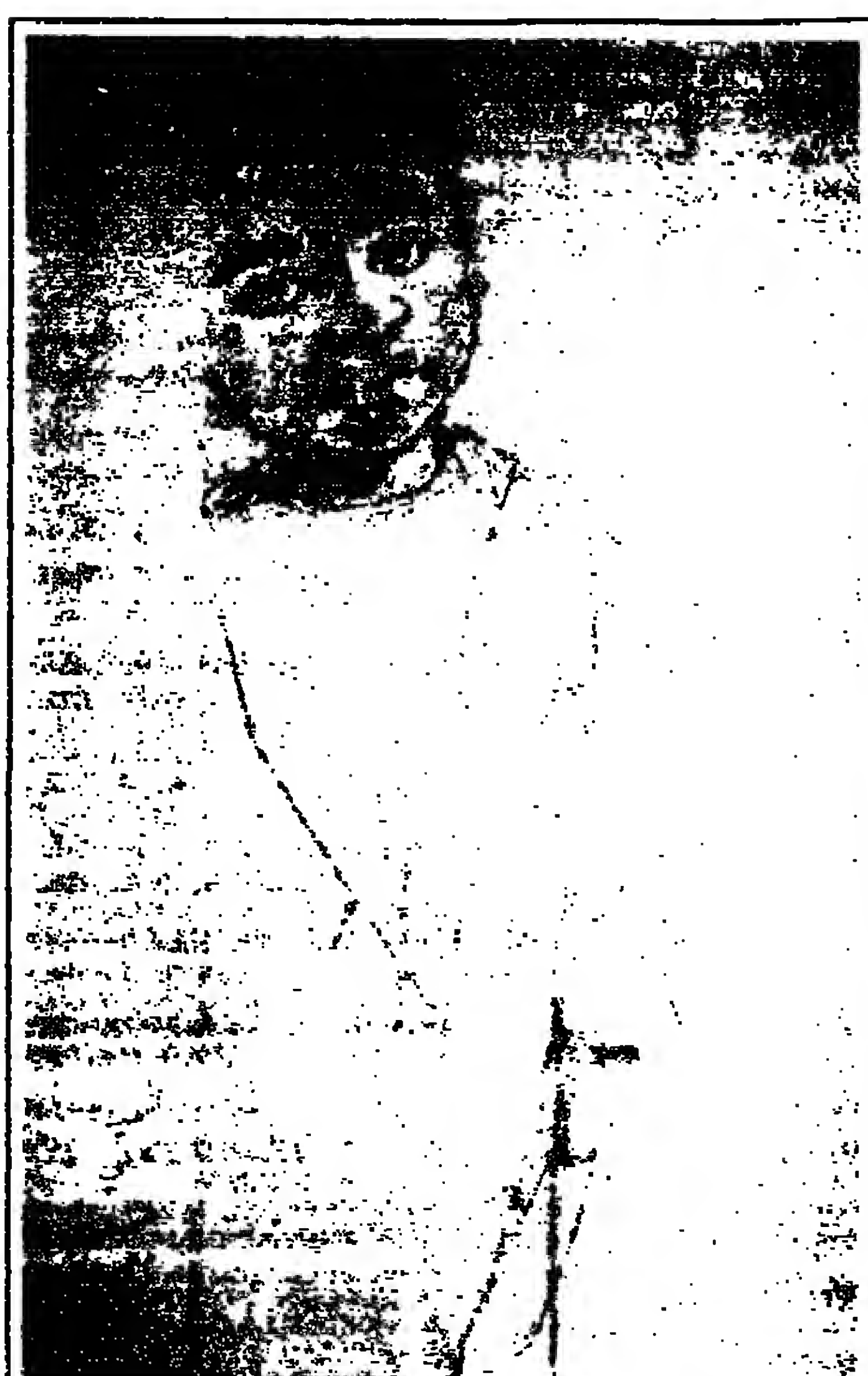
That's history, but we still have to be careful about turncoats," he cautioned. "It is essential that the Ceausescists don't elbow their way (back) into power after shedding their ideology."

Even a tenuous press freedom with an unclear future is welcomed by a readership used to decades of suffocating propaganda, however.

Rarely read before, the dailies are now snapped up by Romanians who line up by the hundreds in front of newspaper outlets they used to avoid.

Even the new free press does not always satisfy.

"Now they are writing the truth about the (dismal) economic situation and about society," said Bogdan Lazarescu, a 20-year-old student.



A child of the intifada

Heather Spears, a Canadian artist and poet based in Denmark, visited the Israeli-occupied territory in early 1989 to draw sketches of Palestinian children wounded in the intifada. Ameenah (above), aged 12, was shot in the head with a rubber bullet while trying to bring her little brother in from the street during a confrontation between youths and soldiers. She was operated on, the bullet was removed and she has recovered (UNRWA).

Illustrated Koran stirs controversy

By Marilyn August
The Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A colorful, easy-to-read version of the Koran in comic book form has won approval from some Islamic authorities, but one scholar has condemned it, calling the author "a new Salman Rushdie."

"Si le Coran M'etait Conte" (if the Koran were told to me), published by alef and costing 57 francs (\$10), is geared to readers aged 12 to 16, says its author, Youssef Seddik.

The Koran is the sacred book of Islam. According to Islamic belief, it contains the words of God as revealed to the Prophet Muhammad during his life at Mecca and Medina.

The comic books have been approved — and even encouraged — by some religious authorities like Ayatollah Mehdi Rouhani, spiritual leader of the Shiite Muslim community in Europe.

"I don't see any problem with the comic books, as long as you know there is a precedent — an illustrated version of the Koran published in Iran 15 years ago," Rouhani said in an interview at his Paris home.

Clinging the evolution of language and writing over the centuries, Rouhani called comic books "the language of the 20th century."

"I'm all for comic books, and would encourage them if they do, in fact, get across the idea of God to young people," he said. But Mohammad Faidallah,

head of Islamic jurisprudence at Kuwait University's Islamic Studies Centre, was quoted Friday as saying the comic books could spark a furor like the outcry over Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses."

Iran's late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini sentenced Rushdie to death in February 1989 for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his novel. Rushdie, an Indian-born British citizen, has been in hiding ever since.

Faidallah said the comic books constituted a "criminal act that ridicules the sanctity of the Holy Koran," and called for their condemnation, the Kuwait newspaper *Al Qabas* reported.

He was quoted as calling Seddik "a new Salman Rushdie recruited to carry out this ugly task." Faidallah urged Arab and Islamic embassies in Paris "to pressure official bodies there with a view to halting such violation of Islamic values," the daily said.

Seddik, 46, a Tunisian-born journalist and academic who has written extensively on Arab culture, said Friday evening he was "deeply saddened" by Faidallah's reaction and disputed the scholar's right to judge the issue.

"Islam is my emotional and spiritual roots. Nothing, no one can ever take it away from me," Seddik said in a telephone interview.

"I'm deeply attached to the principle that distinguishes Islam from Judaism and Christianity. That it does not accept the idea of the clergy. Only the knowledge,

competence and good intentions of the humblest Muslim can judge our actions."

In an earlier interview, Seddik told the Associated Press he was motivated to adapt the Koran because of the frustration he suffered while studying the holy text as a child.

"I remember feeling very sad that we had to learn the text by heart, without any comprehension or understanding of what it meant," he said.

Seddik said the drawings and simple language can help young readers follow the narrative development of the Koran's numerous episodes, while avoiding its "inextricable forest of syntactic, lexical and theological difficulties."

Volume one, entitled "The Cursed Peoples," contains vivid pictures of desert people worshipping idols, living in sin and crime and deaf of pleas of the prophets to change their ways and worship a single god.

The drawings, which Rouhani described as "naive and simplistic," are accompanied by exact quotations from the Koran, complete with chapter and verse references. The prophets are not represented, but evoked by flashes of light.

Seddik said he was careful not to offend or blaspheme in any way and readily destroyed 10,000 copies of a 1986 edition which displeased religious authorities.

The new version, he said, was approved by religious bodies in Algeria and Tunisia.

However, a spokesman for the rector of the grand mosque in Paris was less enthusiastic.

"Comic books dealing with transcendental issues have no instructive value, and, in fact frustrate the development of the adolescent imagination," said Jhaouhy Hadjeddine Sari in a telephone interview.

"Imposing an image of the transcendental on a young person is tantamount to castration," he said. "I can't see teaching the Koran in comic books any more than I can imagine teaching philosophy or math."

Seddik said his desire to publish the comic books was motivated politically.

"The rise of Arab fundamentalism is partly a result of the way the Koran is being taught as something opaque and incantatory, understood by the elite few who run Islam like a secret society to which only they have access," he said.

Seddik admits that comic books transgress one of the key tenants of Islam — the reproduction of images.

"Of course, it's a taboo, but I'm willing to assume full responsibility," he said.

Seddik says he respects the sacredness of Islam. Seddik, who has lived in Paris since 1983, said the seven-volume project was financed by Hocine Meddahi, an Algerian industrialist who lives in Paris. Three volumes have already appeared, in French and Arabic, and an English translation is in progress.

Ceausescu stole people's art treasures

By George Jahn
The Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania — The Ceausescu ruling family, Communists with royal tastes, hoarded thousands of valuable artworks looted from public museums, the nation's culture minister said last week.

Andrei Plesu, a respected art historian and philosopher who is the new minister of culture, said his task was to "revive a corpse," a ministry killed by a 24 years of twisted policy.

Plesu was banished to the provinces for drawing the ire of President Nicolae Ceausescu, who he said "stole from our patrimony objects of art and used them in his own house."

Plesu estimated the Ceausescus expropriated thousands of valuable works by Romanian and foreign artists.

"There were houses full of such objects," Plesu said, adding that while he had not had a chance to study the inventory, he believed the Ceausescus were among the artists whose paintings were illegally taken.

The deposed and executed dictator had no appreciation for art, said Plesu.

"It was a simple matter of greed," he said. "He had to possess these works."

Plesu's interview with the Associated Press took place in a chilly and gloomy conference hall of the culture ministry, known as Ceausescu's era as the council of culture and socialist education.

Plesu said ministry employees had just begun work on an inventory of paintings, sculptures and other art objects reclaimed from dozens of houses and vacation homes used by the Ceausescu clan — the dictator, his wife Elena, their son Nicu and other relatives.

Ceausescu's hunger for art treasures appeared to be common knowledge in Romania.

Bogdan Lazarescu, a 21-year-old student, said in a separate interview that the art museum in his home city of Sibiu, 250 kilometres northwest of Bucharest, had been forced to contribute a rembrandt to the

Ceausescu collection.

Plesu, forced last year to move from Bucharest to a Bacau district town near the border to Soviet Moldavia after signing a letter critical of the state-run writers' union.

Plesu described the culture ministry under his predecessors as "an institution organized against culture" that suppressed most artistic expression not complimentary to the Ceausescus or to their ideas of "scientific socialism."

"I have to revive a corpse," he said.

Much of the culture budget of past years was spent on Cantarea Romaniei — a nearly continuous festival of music, literature and dance designed to pay homage to the Ceausescus and their narrow vision of what constituted art.

Other cultural events had to be approved by the head organizers of Cantarea Romaniei, who, in turn, answered to the Ceausescus.

The festival has been discontinued, and Plesu announced that the ministry would more than double last year's budget of 600 million lei (about \$55 million), to

1.4 billion lei (\$135 million) to infuse new life in cultural activities forced underground under the Ceausescu leadership.

In the interview, Plesu said there has been no wholesale purge of his ministry, but main culprits of past excesses — Suzana Gideu, Ceausescu's leading culture official, and others — had been retired, while the more than 30-strong censorship department had been dissolved.

Plesu said the cuts had reduced the staff of 180 he inherited to about 140, and plans were to prune it to 90.

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Jordan Times'

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

ABC selects Jordan as gate to banking in the Arab World

By Samir Ghawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan has met two key criteria that prompted the Arab Banking Corporation (Bahrain) to choose the Kingdom as its first base to launch an expansion programme in the Arab World under the name Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) Jordan, ABC Executive President Abdallah Saudi told a press conference Sunday.

Saudi classified the Arab World into three categories: Those practising the free market system, the countries which apply varied limitations and those which he described as closed markets. He said that the Jordanian free market policies and the richness of the human resources in Jordan were the main factors behind ABC's choice of the Kingdom to enter the Arab World market.

The ABC chief noted that for any project or investment to be successful, the financial resources, the human resources and the right circumstances have to form the profitable climate to ensure the continuity of any programme in the first place.

Saudi said the decision to come to Jordan was not a short-term strategy but rather a long-term venture as ABC, headquartered in Bahrain, spent the first decade of operations expanding in Europe, the Americas and the Far East and now, in its second decade, it is targeting the Arab World as it should be — being an Arab institution dedicated for Arab economic integration.

The Libyan national Saudi described ABC as the largest inter-

national Arab bank with branches in 21 countries around the globe noting that, since its inception Jan. 17, 1980, the corporation had gained international experience and standard among world top banks. ABC late last year was classified in the A level category by Standard and Poor, the renowned watchdog of world banks in terms of evaluating their performance.

The advantages, according to Saudi, for Jordan from ABC investment is therefore the wide network of operations and the new products that the corporation can put in service of Jordanian retail and corporate sectors.

ABC (Jordan), which started normal and full commercial banking services Sunday, is the product of a takeover by ABC (Bahrain) of Jordan Securities Corporation (JSC) which ran into some financial difficulties a few years back. The Housing Bank was a major shareholder in JSC.

However, Saudi dismissed any link between ABC (Bahrain) and JSC or the mere connotation that ABC bailed out the troubled JSC. He insisted that ABC wanted to expand its Arab presence and that Jordan was the

ideal choice and, in particular, the Housing Bank as a partner for its prominence in the Kingdom.

ABC (Jordan) is 60 per cent held by ABC (Bahrain), 25 per cent by the Housing Bank and the remaining 15 per cent by other shareholders of the now defunct JSC. The new bank's board of directors, chosen last week, include four institutions representing ABC (Bahrain), three institutions representing the Housing Bank and a member representing the other 15 per cent party.

The new bank will not hire any staff at this stage because the employees are already there from the Housing Bank and the dissolved JSC but will be considering new staff and new branches in Jordan as business develops in the future.

Near the end of the press conference, Saudi responded to some questions saying that ABC constantly keeps a high liquidity ratio and that its earning assets are spread approximately 46 per cent in Europe and 25 per cent in the Arab World.

ABC (Jordan) is capitalised at JD 10 million spread over 10 million shares while ABC (Bahrain), the parent company, is capitalised at \$1 billion — recently authorised to be \$1.5 billion — of which \$750 million is paid up by the three shareholders: The finance ministry of Kuwait, Libya's treasury and the investment company of Abu Dhabi.

The paid up capital will be raised to \$1 billion, part of which will be for public subscription, in line with the increase in the authorised capital.

India emphasises pragmatism

NEW DELHI (R) — India, determined to curb its growing foreign debt, will be pragmatic about foreign investment and exchange controls while trying to trim increasing trade and budget deficits, Finance Minister Madhu Danavate said.

"There is an urgent need for our country not to get entangled in a debt trap," Danavate said in an interview Saturday.

External debt will rise to \$60 billion by the end of the 1989/90 financial year in March from \$55 billion the year before, he said.

"That would imply the debt service ratio would be more than 30 per cent, whereas the safe ratio is about 20 per cent," said Danavate, 65, who began his career as a physics professor.

"The implication is that about one-third of our foreign exchange earnings will be spent on interest repayments rather than on developmental activities," he said.

Debt service ratio is the proportion of export earnings needed to repay debt.

India's foreign exchange reserves fell to \$3.2 billion at the end of December from \$4.3 billion at the end of 1988, according to official figures enough to pay the import bill for two-and-a-half months.

"There is no soft solution to (debt reduction) except a long-

drawn process to build an economy of self-reliance," said Danavate, former head of the defunct Indian Socialist Party.

"As a degree of self-reliance grows, the degree of external borrowing will go down," he noted.

He said India was not currently seeking a loan from the International Monetary Fund but would not rule it out. "Our intention depends on the situation."

The World Bank has estimated India will have a current account deficit of \$6.2 billion in 1989/90 against \$5.4 billion the year before.

Danavate said India would be pragmatic about foreign investment, which was only around \$150 million in 1988.

"We can't deny the reality that in certain fields the import of technology is inevitable, and we'll not hesitate to import it," he said.

"But we will not indiscriminately welcome foreign capital and technology because that will defeat the political will to build an economy of self-reliance," he stressed.

The National Front government that came to power after November elections would also be pragmatic about foreign exchange controls, he said.

India does not allow private individuals to have foreign cur-

rency accounts and restricts them from sending foreign exchange abroad.

"If any regulation becomes a hindrance to tourists as well as to improving our foreign exchange reserves we'll revise it," Danavate said.

The government was determined to stop the depreciation of the rupee, which has lost more than 30 per cent of its value against the dollar over the past three years, he said.

"To check the depreciation we would like to restrain deficits, mop up excess liquidity, and also check increasingly money supply," he explained.

Broad money supply (M3) expanded by 19.5 per cent from December 1988 to December 1989, according to official figures.

The new government has asserted its populist credentials by announcing it would write off loans of up to 10,000 rupees (\$500) for poor farmers and rural workers.

Critics have said the cost of the plan, estimated at around \$7 billion, would put incredible strain on the central budget and the banking system.

But Danavate said the loan forgiveness would evolve over a period of several years to soften the shock to banks.

Board of Audit calls for more Japanese aid control

TOKYO (AP) — Japan has poorly managed its massive overseas aid programme and needs to give more consideration to the needs of developing nations, the Board of Audit said in a report.

"Government organisations in charge of the projects should strengthen ties between themselves and recipient countries so that Japan can grasp the conditions of the projects and make more effective use of overseas aid," according to the board's annual report on government waste and inefficiency.

Japan has budgeted about 1.4 trillion yen (\$9.4 billion) for overseas aid during the current fiscal year, which ends in March 1990. The country is expected to be the world's largest aid donor during the period.

Japan's overseas aid has grown rapidly in recent years, and with it has come criticism that it does not pay enough attention to the needs of recipients.

A shortage of qualified aid administrators has made it difficult to identify deserving projects and monitor their progress, officials say.

The board cited two aid projects which it said had been ineffective, but did not identify the recipient countries.

In one project, involving transportation, Japan's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund loaned 4.0 billion yen (\$33.3 million) between 1975 and 1980 for the purchase of 65 diesel train cars and the building of repair facilities.

The recipient country, however, never completed the repair facilities because of a lack of funds, and as a result 42 of the 65 cars are out of operation, the report said.

Another project involving technology transfer and the building of pilot factories for 500 million yen (\$3.5 million) is more than six years behind schedule, the report said.

"The delay was partly because Japan did not offer additional help after the recipient had financial problems," the report said.

Newspapers identified the location of the two projects as the Philippines and Egypt respectively.

The board said Japan's official

development assistance was not effectively used in six out of 56 aid projects it audited during the 1988 fiscal year.

About 17.2 billion yen (\$120 million) in equipment and facilities were involved in the six projects, it said.

The Board of Audit said that overall, the total amount of government funds misappropriated or poorly allocated during the year amounted to 15.1 billion yen (\$105 million) in 202 cases, up from 10.7 billion yen (\$74 million) in 107 cases the previous year.

Among the major abuses were excessive medical insurance payments and grants to local governments, the report said.

Arab ship repair yard makes first net profit

BAHRAIN (R) — An Arab ship-building and repair yard has said it made a net profit in 1989 of \$4.2 million, after 10 years of losses.

Arab Ship Repair Yard (ASRY) General Manager Antonio Machado Lopes told Reuters the Bahrain-based company expected profits to soar in the 1990s on rising oil exports from the Gulf and a worldwide boom in shipping traffic.

"In the coming years, the Gulf could be supplying most of the world's oil — if the area remains peaceful, the future of ship repair yards in the Gulf is very bright," he said.

Lopes said the company made a net loss in 1988, after subtracting depreciation costs, but declined to give a figure.

He said operating profit rose to \$10.5 million in 1989, from \$445,000 the previous year while turnover leaped to \$47 million from \$26 million.

Lower insurance rates follow-

ing an August 1988 ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war have boosted business for Gulf shipyards by making it cheaper for vessels to stay in the waterway.

Lopes said ASRY would build a second drydock at an estimated cost of \$55 million to take advantage of the business boom.

It would be able to take ships of up to 150,000 deadweight tonnes and would be mainly self-financed, he said. But ASRY might take a \$10 million loan for the project.

ASRY was also studying options on a third drydock and a decision was expected by the end of February, Lopes said.

The company's existing drydock can take 500,000-tonne ships and is owned by the governments of Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Libya.

The biggest drydock in the Gulf, Dubai, which can handle one ship of one million tonnes.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

World Bank lends Morocco \$49m

RABAT (R) — The World Bank has lent Morocco \$49 million to save and develop forests, fight erosion and produce firewoods. The 20-year loan with a five-year grace period carries a variable interest rate, currently 7.75 per cent, the official news agency MAP said.

Arms help Saudi industry

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabian Industry Minister Abdulaziz Al Zamel has said that his country's big arms purchases from abroad have helped boost local industry. "Saudi Arabia has profited from its foreign defence purchases to a large extent through the establishment of joint industrial and services companies with those who signed contracts with the ministry of defence," Zamel has told Saudi television. "The kingdom will buy military equipment to defend itself, but at the same time asks foreign companies to put part of their investments in the kingdom against these purchases," the Saudi Press Agency, received in Cyprus, quoted him as saying. He said two major projects had already emerged as part of this policy. He expected four other projects to follow but did not specify them. Saudi Arabia last month unveiled a \$38.1 billion budget allocating 36 per cent for defence — the biggest military budget in the Middle East.

Investcorp reports record profit

BAHRAIN (R) — The Arabian Investment Banking Corporation (Investcorp) has said its 1989 net profit rose by 12 per cent to a record \$51.8 million. The Bahrain-based bank, which has shareholders in six Gulf Arab states, said in a statement that earnings grew for the seventh successive year. Operating income rose to \$77.3 million in 1989 from \$67.8 million in 1988, while assets grew to \$813.9 million from \$745.2 million. The bank channels private investment into Western companies. It announced a profit of \$46.2 million in 1988. Directors have recommended a \$15 million cash dividend to shareholders to be approved at the Jan. 30 annual meeting, Investcorp said. The amount represents a constant 15 per cent of paid share capital.

Vietnam plans to raise oil output

BANGKOK (R) — Vietnam has said it planned to produce 2.5 million tonnes of crude oil in 1990, which its said was equivalent to the total produced over the last four years. Radio Hanoi said oil companies from Australia, Canada, Japan, Sweden and the United States were looking into investment possibilities in Vietnam. The broadcast noted that joint production and exploitation agreements had already been signed with companies from Belgium, Britain, France, India and the Netherlands. The agreements were made under liberal foreign investment laws introduced in 1988. All Vietnam's crude is still produced by a joint venture with the Soviet Union at the White Tiger field off the southern port of Vung Tau and exported for refining abroad. The radio said the country planned to go ahead with construction of its own refinery with a capacity of three million tonnes per year at the end of this year. Vietnam now imports more than two million tonnes of petroleum products annually, most of it from the Soviet Union.

EC Inflation slows in November

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Consumer prices in the 12 European Community (EC) nations rose by an average of 0.4 per cent in November, slowing from a 0.6 per cent increase in October, according to figures released by the EC statistics agency, Eurostat. Eurostat said EC inflation would be about 5.5 per cent for the whole of 1989, up from 4.4 per cent in 1988 and 3.4 per cent in 1987. The highest price increases in November were in Portugal, with one per cent, and in Britain and Greece with 0.9 per cent each. Prices were unchanged in the Netherlands, while the consumer price index fell 0.1 per cent in Belgium. According to Eurostat, the rates of inflation for the 12 European countries in 1989 were as follows: Greece, 14 per cent; Portugal, 11.5 per cent; Britain, 7.5 per cent; Spain, 7.0 per cent; Italy, 6.0 per cent; Denmark, 4.8 per cent; Ireland, 4.7 per cent; Luxembourg, 3.8 per cent; France, 3.5 per cent; Belgium 3.3 per cent; West Germany, 3.0 per cent and Netherlands, 1.2 per cent.

S. Korea faces slow growth

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea's export-oriented economy will continue to experience difficulty and grow only 6.5 per cent next year with higher inflation and unemployment, officials said Friday. In a report to a meeting of top government officials and ruling and opposition leaders, the Economic Planning Board (EPB) said next year's government policy will put emphasis on reducing labour protests. "Unless industrial peace is achieved, our economy will face an enormous problem next year, with the growth rate plunging below five per cent and unemployment rising," the EPB report said. The meeting, presided over by President Roh Tae-woo, was attended by about 100 senior government officials and opposition leaders, including Kim Dae-jung of the Party for Peace and Democracy. After annual double-digit growth rates in 1986-88, the report said the Korean economy would expand only 6.5 per cent this year. A similar trend would continue next year with sluggish exports and high inflation, it said. Exports, the prime mover of the South Korean economy, have been slow so far this year, forcing officials to revise their target several times to \$62 billion. Inflation is expected to reach five to six per cent this year.

Belzberg bids to buy troubled Koor

TEL AVIV (R) — The Canadian-based Belzberg Group has offered \$130 million for Israel's troubled Koor Industries conglomerate, Israel radio has reported.

It said the offer was conditional on the government providing a \$50 million credit for the trade union-owned concern, which

owes Israeli and foreign banks about \$1 billion.

A Koor spokesman said he was not able to comment on the figures.

Koor, the manufacturing arm of the giant Histadrut Labour Federation, is Israel's biggest industrial employer with 20,000 workers in businesses ranging

from electronics to cement, food processing, and telecommunications.

Israel radio said the finance ministry favoured the offer by Belzberg brothers, who have wide interests in real estate, manufacturing and financial services in the United States and Canada, but Koor's management opposed the bid.

The company has expressed interest in an undisclosed bid by the U.S.-based Shamrock Investment Corporation for a 51 per cent stake in Koor, also conditional on the government and commercial banks bearing a share of the concern's debt.

Israeli officials have stressed the urgency of a solution since Koor has declared its inability to service \$105 million of U.S. bonds and will formally be in default at the end of this month.

"January 31 is a very important deadline. It's the payment day," the Koor spokesman said.

Communist minister calls for free market

EAST BERLIN (AP) — East Germany has announced limited price increases and its communist economics minister has called for a free-market economy as the state that once insisted it would remain a "socialistic alternative" continued major economic changes.

East Germans crowded stores Saturday, seeking goods before the announced increases take effect Monday.

The government claims the limited increases are necessary as it starts dismantling the costly and inefficient state subsidies for dozens of basic goods, including clothing and food.

Meanwhile, East German Economics Minister Christa Luff became the highest-ranking government official to call for a free-market economy, as demanded by potential Western investors.

"It must be an efficient free-market economy that proves itself to be internationally competi-

tive," Luff told leading West German industrialists, including Daimler-Benz chief Edzard Reuter and Volkswagen chairman Carl Hahn.

Luff said such an economic system must also take into account social and environmental concerns.

Potential Western investors, including those from Western Germany, have demanded a free-market system as a condition for greater investment in East Germany.

The country has had a centrally planned economy since its founding in 1949. But the hardline leadership that supported the planned economy, led by Erich Honecker, was removed Oct. 10 amid a public outcry for economic and social reform.

East Germany's parliament Friday cleared the way for joint ventures with foreign companies, in hopes of attracting badly needed Western capital to bolster the sagging economy.

Hungary announces massive price hikes

BUDAPEST (AP) — The government has announced a range of consumer price hikes that made most basic consumer items more than 25 per cent more expensive, the state MTI news agency reported.

Meat prices rose by 32 per cent, bread by 26 per cent and milk and dairy products 42-43 per cent, MTI quoted a government statement.

Some of the increases resulted from an end to state price controls. The new policy is part of an austerity budget adopted by parliament last month.

The cost of cigarettes, beer and spirits rose by 20-22 per cent, while rents increased by 35 per

cent as subsidies were withdrawn, MTI said.

Hungarians had to pay 45 per cent more for urban public transport, and 55 per cent more for mass transit in the Budapest area. Inter-city road and rail fares went up by 20 per cent, MTI said.

The cost of some imported cars rose 25 per cent, while regular gasoline cost 29.5 forints a litre, a hike of 3.50 forints (five cents).

A rise of 336 per cent in water and sewage rates was justified by a cut in state subsidies and previously "irrationally low" prices, MTI said.

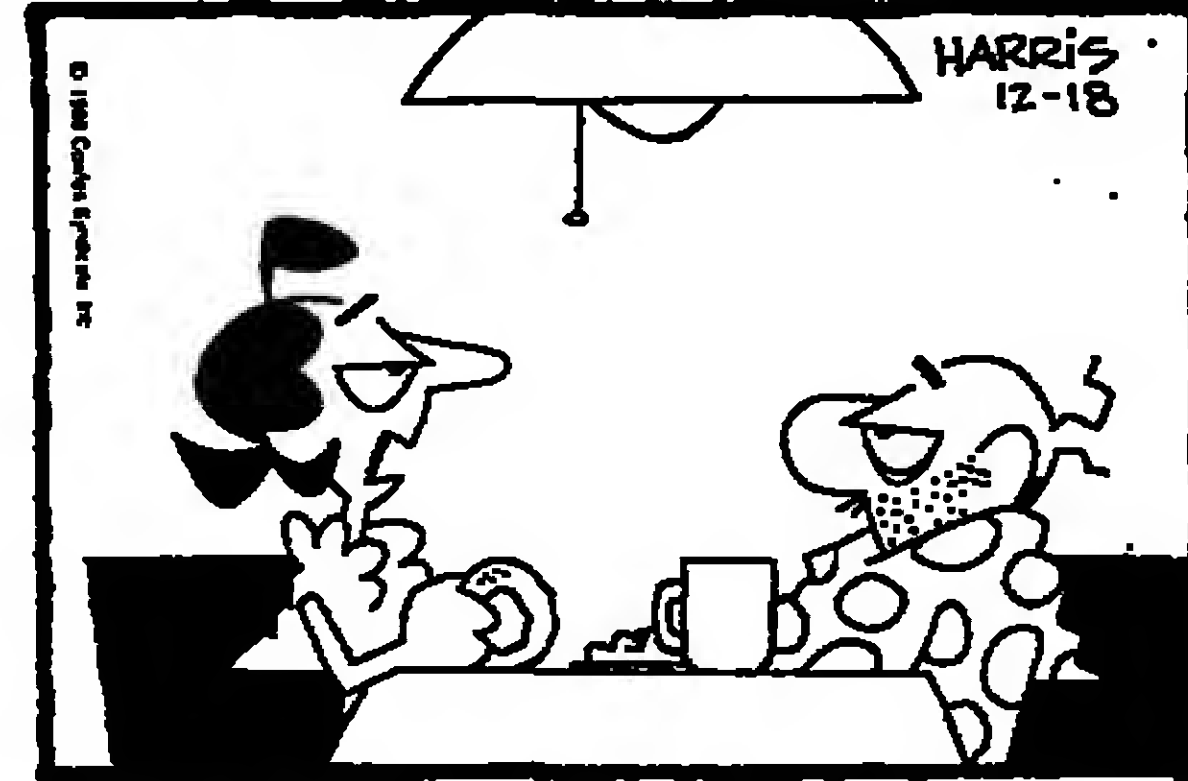
To offset the hikes, the government would raise state pensions and family allowances, MTI said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, January 14, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	113.1	114.2
U.S. dollar	630.0	656.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	445.8	450.3
Pound Sterling	1079.6	1090.4	Dutch guilder	341.6	345.0
Deutsche mark	385.4	389.3	Swedish crown	106.1	107.2
Swiss franc	434.1	438.4	Italian lira (for 100)	51.7	52.2
			Belgian franc (for 10)	184.8	186.6

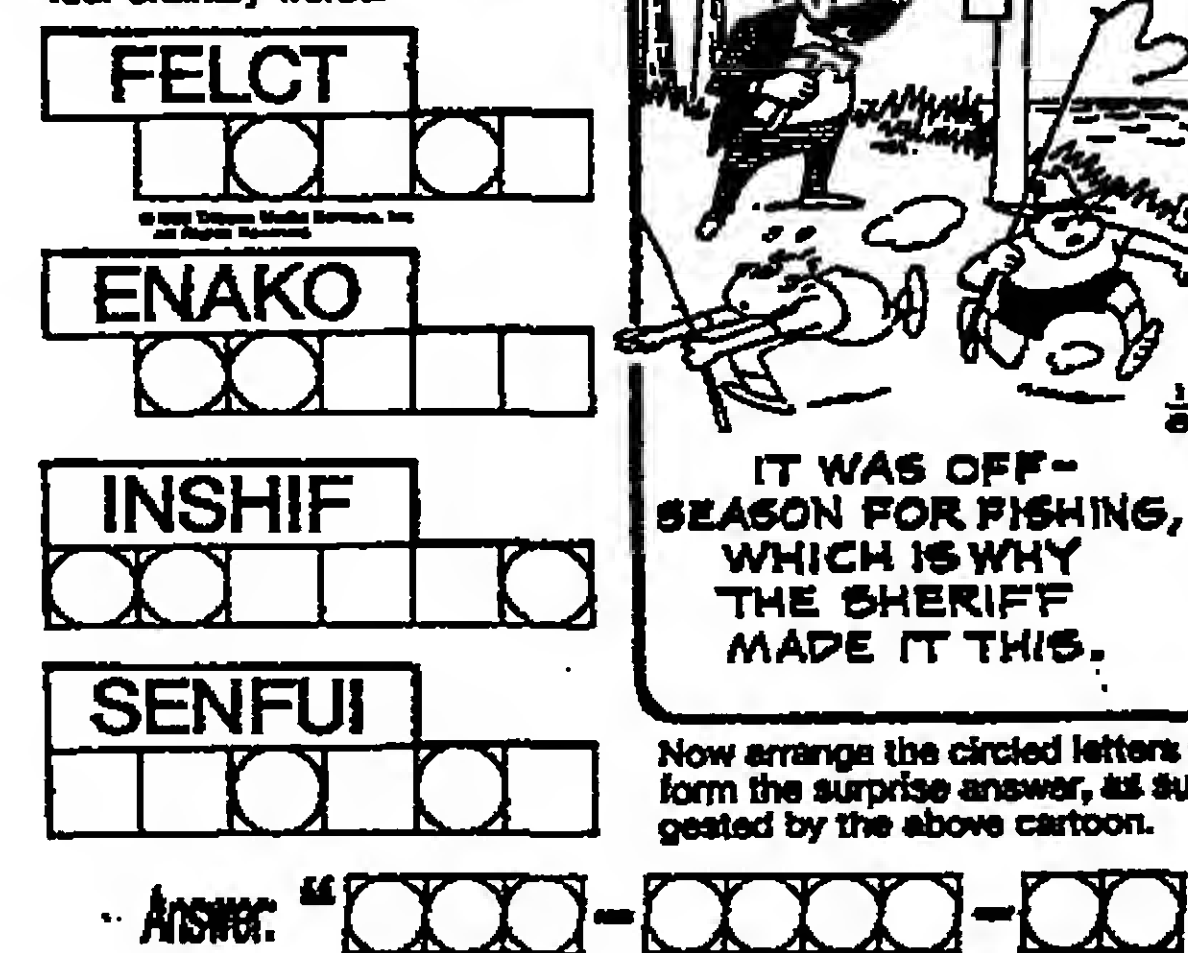
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"The juice is fresh, the eggs are fresh, the coffee is fresh, the donuts are fresh, you're stale!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



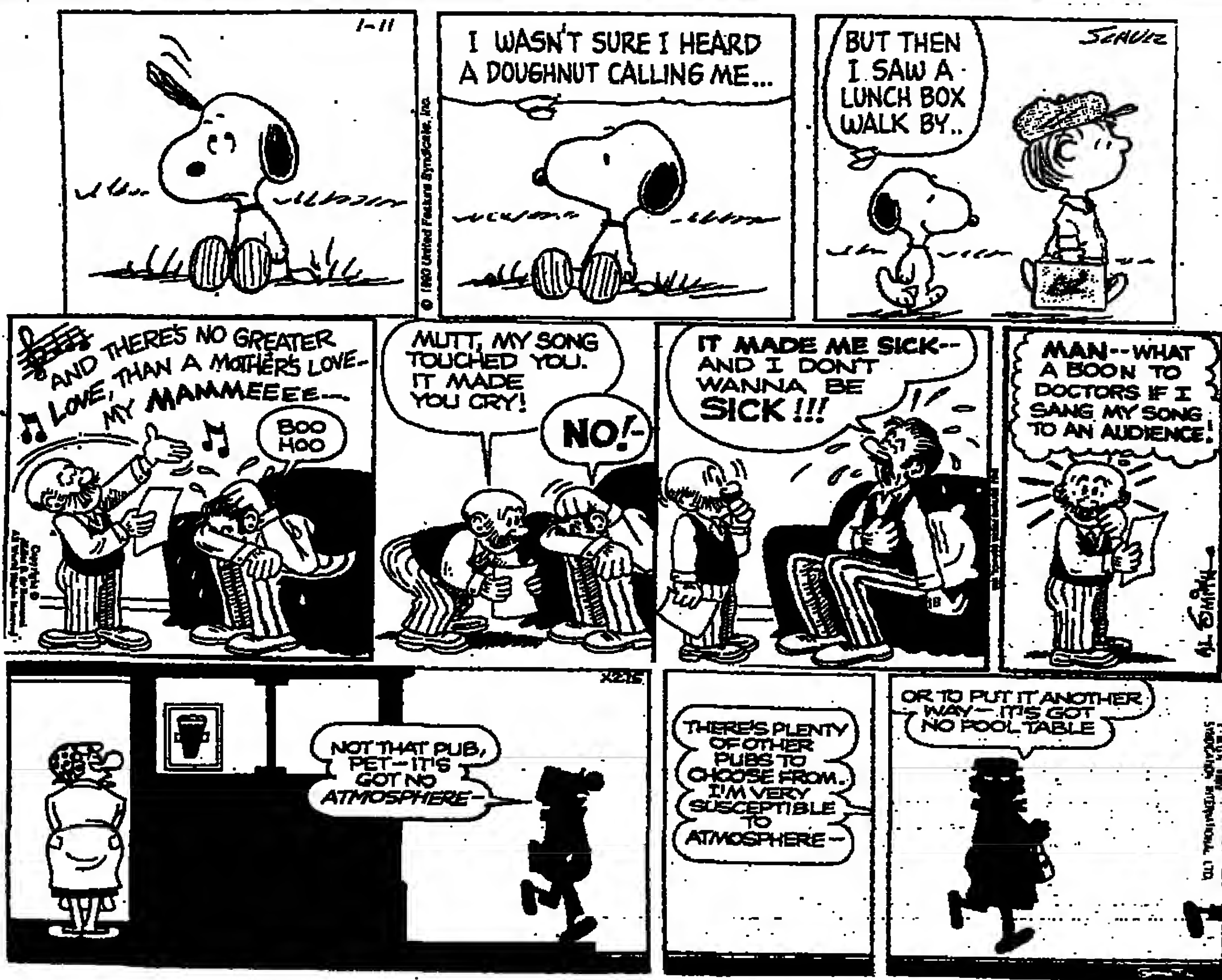
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Saturday's Jumble: SCARY FRIAR BLUSH RAVAGE

Peanuts

Mutt'n Jeff

Andy Capp



Martial law end no boost for Li

BEIJING (R) — Premier Li Peng's announcement of the end of martial law in Beijing last week has failed to boost the hardline leader's reputation, some residents of the Chinese capital said Sunday.

People interviewed in the city said the withdrawal of martial law Thursday had not brought them more freedom because squads of armed police have been mobilised to take their place.

Li appeared on national television last Wednesday to personally revoke the martial law he decreed May 20 last year and said the army had won a great victory in smashing political unrest last June.

He looked a figure of moderation as he appeared in a Western-style suit, addressing the nation in measured tones against a background of books.

But many Beijing residents recalled the finger-stabbing, desk-slapping performance he gave while proclaiming martial law and found the transformation hard to swallow.

"He is trying to look calmer and milder now," said one office worker. "But I don't think he has changed his real character."

Li is strongly supported by Communist Party elders such as Chen Yun who emerged as head of a hardline party faction after June. The faction backs him as a man able to enforce central economic planning and strict Marxism.

Some people said they welcomed the repeal of martial law because it may bring tourists, foreign investors and loans back to China and speed the lifting of other punitive sanctions imposed by the West after the army crackdown.

But such optimism seems to

have done little to boost the personal standing of Li, blamed by many for ordering troops and tanks to crush anti-government demonstrations in Beijing last June 4, causing heavy loss of life.

In the tumultuous days before the tanks rolled in, "Down with Li Peng" was one of the most common slogans scrawled on walls, posters and banners and shouted at mass protest marches that paralysed city traffic.

Then, as now, people criticised him for lacking talent and because many believe he owes his eminence to being the adopted son of Chou Enlai, a revered premier for 27 years before his death in 1976.

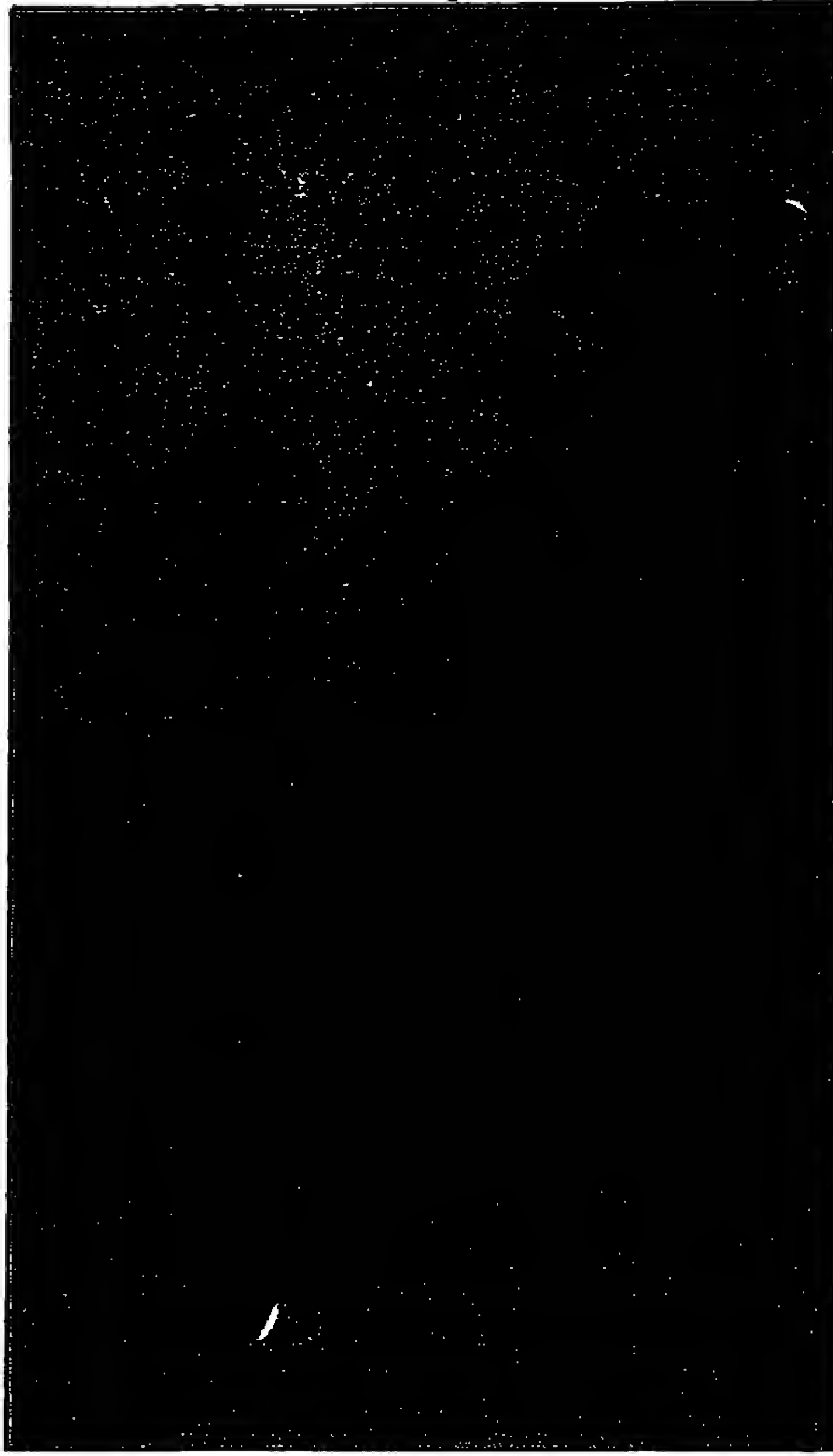
"Why is Li Peng leader? Ask anybody what he has achieved and there will be a long silence," said one middle-aged factory worker.

Diplomats said Li was a cautious planner who has presided over 16 months of economic austerity credited with reining in potentially runaway inflation. But the nation has paid a price as industrial production slumped.

An office worker described Li as an uninspiring leader not given to the jocular banter other Chinese rulers employ on good visits abroad.

The son of a "revolutionary martyr," Li studied engineering at Moscow power institute from 1948 to 1955 before embarking on a steady climb to the top of Chinese politics which he denies had anything to do with his father Chou.

In the run-up to lifting martial law, Li urged the people's armed police to heighten vigilance against enemies bent on sabotaging socialism and Saturday named Marxism as a guiding light for China's judicial system.



Tourists are trickling back to Beijing's Tiananmen Square after the lifting of martial law but there is little popularity for the premier who ordered it.

Police remain on top alert throughout the capital, poised to pounce at the first sign of trouble. "The end of martial law means

nothing," said one university student. "There are so many police around that any protest would be futile."

8 held for killing of Jesuits in Salvador

SAN SALVADOR (AP) — An army colonel, three lieutenants and four soldiers have been arrested for the November massacre of six Roman Catholic priests, President Alfredo Cristiani said.

A ninth suspect, a private, deserted from the armed forces last month and was a fugitive, the Salvadorean president said Saturday in a national broadcast. The other eight, he said, "have been placed at the disposition of the special investigative commission" — in effect under arrest.

Sources close to the investigation, who declined identification, confirmed Cristiani's comments meant the men indeed were under arrest. They have not yet been charged.

Colonel Guillermo Alfredo Benavides and eight others would be handed over to a local court which decline whether there is sufficient evidence to lodge formal charges.

"We want to make it clear that this is only a phase in the investigation, which has been undertaken so that the truth will come to light," said Cristiani.

The naming of Benavides marked the first time a high-level ranking Salvadorean officer has been formally implicated in a human rights case since El Salvador's complex social, political and economic problems flared into civil war 10 years ago.

Diplomats said the naming of Benavides could create a rift in the military, which has been known for its steadfast internal allegiances.

The six Jesuits, their housekeeper and her 15-year-old daughter were gunned down with assault rifles after being dragged from their beds on the Central American University campus on Nov. 16.

The killings took place during a military curfew and church and human rights leaders quickly accused the army of carrying out the massacre.

Members of the U.S. Congress have said American aid to El Salvador of more than \$1 billion a day could be in jeopardy if progress in the investigation was not made by Cristiani's government.

Christiani is due in the United States next week to confer with President George Bush's administration and members of the U.S. Congress and go to the United Nations.

The Jesuits were slain five days after rebels of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) launched their biggest offensive of the war.

Christiani announced Jan. 7 that military men were responsible for the executions but did not provide names, rank or units.

Fire kills 43 in Spanish disco

ZARAGOZA, Spain (Agencies) — An electrical fire broke out in a discotheque early Sunday, killing 43 people who were overcome by smoke as they listened to a band in the basement, said officials in this northern city.

The fire began near the first-floor entrance to the Flying Discotheque just before 2:40 a.m. (0140 GMT), and smoke spread quickly through air conditioning ducts to the basement, authorities said.

Government spokesman Ignacio Bruna said 139 people were in the disco at the time of the fire, which was blamed on an electrical short circuit.

He said the 43 victims had all become trapped in the base-

ment, where they died of smoke inhalation.

Deputy Mayor Luis Garcia Nieto said firefighters arrived at 2:48 a.m. (0148 GMT) and put out the fire quickly, but said rescue workers could do little to save those in the basement.

"Those who were able to get out did," Garcia Nieto told Spanish national radio. "Many of the victims were still sitting in their chairs."

The central government representative in Zaragoza, Carlos Perez Nacion, said that smoke had reached the basement through the air conditioning ducts.

One woman was being treated for smoke inhalation in

the intensive care unit of Miguel Servet hospital, which reported her condition as serious. Two others were treated for minor injuries, officials said.

Meanwhile, several dozen anxious people gathered outside the municipal morgue to find out whether family members were among the dead. Twenty-five of the victims had been identified as area residents, said Bruna.

Garcia Nieto said the discotheque had been licensed in 1984, a year after tough fire regulations were imposed in the wake of a Dec. 17, 1983, fire that killed more than 90 people in the Madrid disco Alcala 26.

Philippines to begin coup trial

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The military chief has approved recommendations that two generals and 19 other officers be charged with murder and mutiny in connection with last month's coup attempt, the military said Sunday.

President Corason Aquino thanked foreign governments for expressing their support for her during the mutiny and said there would be no more bids to seize power if her government succeeds in undertaking reforms.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff general Renato de Villa approved a recommendation by a military investigating committee to prosecute air force Brigadier — general Jose Comendador, army Brig. Gen. Marcelo Blando and 19 officers arrested after the failed Dec. 1-9 coup.

Those to be subjected to a pre-trial investigation before formal charges are filed included two navy captains, one colonel, seven lieutenant colonels, three majors, five captains and one first lieutenant.

Twelve of the rebel officers belong to the army.

The military said about 3,000 rebel soldiers took part in the coup attempt, the sixth and most serious bid to topple Aquino. The fighting left at least 113 people dead and more than 500 wounded.

Commandador seized the Macan air force base in Cebu, 560 kilometres south of Manila, on the first day of the rebellion and held out until Dec. 9.

Blando, the commander of the elite Seventh Infantry Division, was called in to reinforce loyal

troops but he joined the rebels, according to de Villa in a recent television interview.

Another rebel officer, Lt. Col. Rafael Galvez, led about 500 army scout rangers who seized several high-rise apartments and hotels, trapping about 1,600 guests in the Manila financial district of Makati for four days. Galvez and his forces later surrendered.

The military investigating panel said three air force officers — Capt. Elmer Amon, Capt. Vergel Nacion and 1st Lt. Joey Sarroza — piloted planes that bombed the Malacanang presidential palace, the armed forces headquarters and a television station on the first day of the uprising.

"Viva (U.S. President George) Bush," one man shouted.

Outside, plumes of smoke float into the grey sky in thick puffs, filling the air with the acrid smell of leftover tear-gas.

Broken glass, empty cartons and shreds of paper are piled high: remnants of the rampant looting that broke out and went unstoppped for four days, emptying businesses of an estimated \$1 billion of goods and leaving 30,000 people jobless.

A little boy quietly throws pail of his family's garbage onto one of the heaps.

Television commercials urge viewers to "return the stolen goods." But no one seems to.

On a sunny afternoon, newly installed Panamanian President Guillermo Endara wore a blue suit, pucker his lips and grabbed a sledgehammer.

"Over the ashed of the military, we will build a new Panama," said the civilian leader Thursday after smashing a wall of the imposing building where Noriega led his 15,000 troops.

Referendum to decide party's fate

Ceausescu associates to go on public trial

BUCHAREST (Agencies) — Public trials of arrested members of Nicolae Ceausescu's ousted Communist regime will open in Romania this week, an official of the ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) said Sunday.

The trials will include top leaders from the Ceausescu era and members of the dictator's fanatical Securitate secret police who fought troops and civilian insurgents in an attempt to halt last month's revolution.

The trials will start in the middle of the week. They'll be open to the press and the public," Adrian Sirbu, the NSF coordinator, told Reuters.

Romania's new leadership, under fire for acting too quickly in moving to ban the Communist Party, says the decision will now be put to the public in a referendum.

Changing a decision taken just 24 hours earlier to appease angry demonstrators, the NSF said Romanians would vote Jan. 28 on the future of the party which ran their lives for more than four decades.

Romania's ban on the Communist Party was the first declared in Eastern Europe's political upheaval against old-style Communist rule.

In a live television broadcast, interim President Ion Iliescu announced a reversal of Friday's

hasty decree to outlaw the party, adding to a mood of political confusion three weeks after the overthrow of Ceausescu.

"We have decided to put the outlawing of the party to a referendum on Jan. 28 together with the abolition of capital punishment," Iliescu said Saturday.

The referendum is also to decide on whether to reinstate the death penalty, which was abolished by the revolutionary leadership after the executions of Ceausescu and his wife, Elena.

The arrest of Ceausescu's eldest son, Valentin, was confirmed in a separate television broadcast Saturday night, which showed him in handcuffs.

The arrest of Valentin, a member of the Communist Party's policy-setting central committee, had not been acknowledged previously.

Already announced were the arrests of Ceausescu's daughter Zoia-Elena and his playboy son Nicu, who as local party chief in the city of Sibiu allegedly ordered security forces to shoot demonstrators.

Also shown in handcuffs in the film were former Interior Minister Tudor Postelnicu, former party secretary Emil Bobu, a close Ceausescu aide, and Marin Neagoe, chief of Ceausescu's palace guard.

The broadcast did not say when the film was shot.

Thousands of people have taken to the streets in Bucharest, Timisoara and Brasov in recent days to call for the removal of Communists from the revolutionary leadership and urge reinstatement of the death penalty for some members of the Securitate.

Iliescu complained that the popular pressures had led some front members to consider resigning.

"Then we realised that in this way, we would leave an open road to anarchy and chaos in the country, which would be a genuine national disaster," he said. "We need the massive support of the whole country."

"The Communist Party self-destructed or was removed from political life on Dec. 22," Iliescu added, referring to the day Ceausescu was overthrown.

"The front is against any leading role of any party. We are in a dramatic moment because we inherited an extremely difficult decision from the dictatorship. We need patience, wisdom and unity," he said.

Police said 11 members of the Securitate would stand trial Monday in Timisoara, the birthplace of the revolution. Street protest against official foot-dragging led the army to assume control over the Transylvanian city Friday.

C8LUMN

Five degrees in one go

HOUSTON (AP) — Agnieszka Klich does not particularly love school and is like many other students who hate getting up early in the morning to attend classes at the University of Houston. But that has not stopped the 22-year-old student who came to the United States from Poland in 1986 from getting ready this spring to be awarded four bachelor's degrees — radio-television, journalism, history and Russian history — from the university and an associate degree in economics from Houston Community College. To accomplish her feat, Klich will take seven classes — four is considered standard — at the university this spring and one at the community college. Oh yes, she also has a part-time job at Texas Paralegal School. "I know that sounds crazy," said Klich. "But I like finding out about things." Klich began learning English at the age of eight.

Noriega poster in vogue

CHICAGO, Illinois (AP) — An enterprising poster maker who sold nearly 750,000 copies featuring Ayatollah Khomeini a few years back now has Manuel Noriega in his sights. Mike McCormack's latest creation: The smiling face of a uniformed Noriega with a superimposed bull's eye. "I've been getting a lot of requests for this one," said McCormack, who also has brought out target posters of U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy, former President Jimmy Carter and former Chicago Mayor Jane Byrne. "A lot of military people have been requesting the Noriega poster," he said.

Florida — car capital of world

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AP) — The U.S. state of Florida, which boasts more vehicles than people, has earned the dubious title of the car capital of the world. The state has 12.8 million residents — and 15.1 million vehicles, according to the latest statistics from Florida's Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. Florida also leads the nation in new car sales. Some Floridians have one car for pleasure and another for work. Tourists want rental cars. Families buy junk cars for teenagers. Even those who might not be able to afford a car need something to get around in because of inadequate public transportation. "The biggest thing these numbers say is what a lousy public transportation system we have in Florida," said John Degrove, of the Joint Centre for Urban Universities. I.D. Power and Associates, a California-based research firm, found that Floridians buy 87.34 new cars for every 1,000 people each year, nearly 50 per cent above the national average.

Money stolen from da Vinci house

VINCI, Italy (AP) — Thieves broke into the 15th-century home of Leonardo da Vinci and made off with funds from a cashbox, authorities reported. The thieves broke a window and entered the house late Friday or early Saturday, police said. They took about 1.5 million lire (\$1,200) from the cashbox, the proceeds from sale of books about the artist, the Italian news agency ANSA reported. The house was opened to the public as a museum in 1986 after restoration. Da Vinci was born in the house near Florence in northern Italy in 1452. He died in France in 1519 after producing such works as the "Last Supper" and "Mona Lisa."



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Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	WIND
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ATHENS	03	37	13 35 Clear
BAHRAIN	11	32	18 64 Rain
BANGKOK	25	77	22 80 Clear
Buenos Aires	08	26	29 36 Rain
CAIRO	07	45	17 63 Cloudy
CHICAGO	-10	14	01 21 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	01	34	06 43 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	02	38	29 36 Cloudy
GENEVA	-03	27	01 30 Cloudy
HONG KONG	18	81	18 64 Cloudy
ISTANBUL	12	38	29 36 Cloudy
LONDON	05	41	08 46 Rain
LOS ANGELES	15	53	18 64 Cloudy
MADRID	00	32	13 54 Clear
MEXICO	19	65	31 86 Cloudy
MONTREAL	05	31	01 34 Cloudy
MOSCOW	-01	30	01 34 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	08	46	27 80 Clear
NEW YORK	-04	24	01 33 Cloudy
PARIS	02	28	05 41 Cloudy
ROME	05	28	07 45 Cloudy
SYDNEY	10	68	21 70 Cloudy
TOKYO	02	36	07 45 Cloudy
VIENNA	-06	21	02 28 Cloudy